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Former Lion charged with sexual assault

CRIME A former B.C. Lions player has been charged with sexual assault after an incident witnessed by Vancouver cops on Labour Day.

Police say when officers saw a man fondling a woman and tried to arrest him, he ran away, but was taken down after a violent struggle.

Joshua Joseph Boden, 23, of Surrey is charged with sexual assault and assaulting a police officer.

Police will not say if Boden is also a suspect in another sex assault in Vancouver last week, in which a woman was attacked by a man with a description similar to Boden's.

Boden played with the Lions as a wide receiver in the 2006-07 CFL season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Move

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Celebrity Buzz pg 21

Ex calls Cibrian serial cheater

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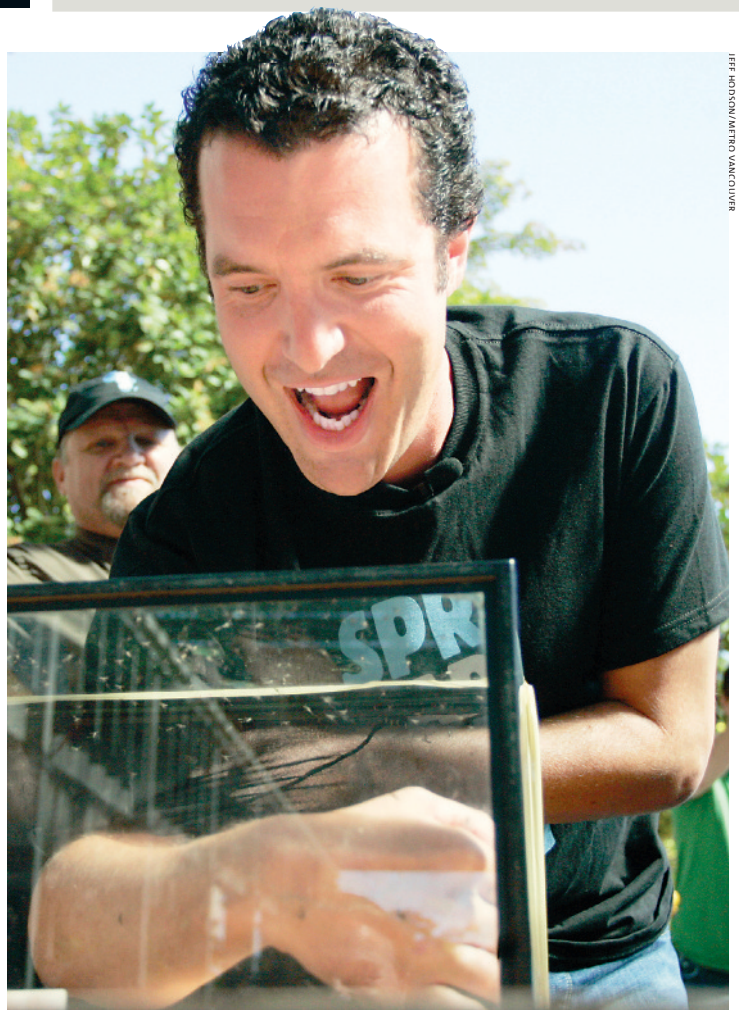


JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Comedian Rick Mercer sticks his arm into a box of mosquitoes Thursday at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby during the launch of his Spread the Net student challenge.

Mercer on a mission

Comedian seeks funds for bed nets

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

For a comedian, Rick Mercer has a serious message: Every 30 seconds a child in Africa dies from malaria.

"If there are bed nets, the children stay alive," Mercer told students at Simon Fraser University Thursday afternoon.

"The men are healthy, the women are healthy, and they can work and they can farm and the children can go to school."

Mercer is the co-founder (with former MP Belinda Stronach) of Spread the Net, a charity that aims to fight mosquito-spread malaria, a leading cause of death for African children under five.

Spread the Net, he said, focuses on a "simple, tangible solution." It purchases bed nets with mosquito repellant at $10 a pop for children in Rwanda and Liberia.

At SFU, Mercer received a rock-star welcome from students, complete with an acrobatic cheer team and school mascot, as he launched his third annual Spread the Net student challenge.

In the past two years, students have raised more than $650,000 for the charity, enough to purchase 65,000 mosquito nets.

Later, on a dare, he stuck his arm into a box of blood-sucking mosquitoes. He pulled his arm out after about a minute and was scratching it as he signed autographs and posed for photos with students.

"I've got a few itchy spots for sure," he said. "If I had known, I would have brought my Deep Woods Off."

The student challenge pits SFU students against an eastern school to see which can raise the most money. The winner will be featured on an upcoming episode of the Rick Mercer Report.

SFU on TV

• The SFU launch of Spread the Net will air during one of the first three episodes of The Rick Mercer Report, which returns with new episodes Sept. 29.

South African runner has male, female sex organs: Report

SPORT World 800-metre champion Caster Semenya of South Africa has male and female sexual organs, the Sydney Morning Herald reported Thursday.

The Herald said extensive physical exams of the runner, 18, ordered by the IAAF, have shown she is technically a hermaphrodite.

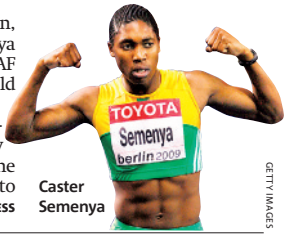
Medical reports indicate she has no ovaries, but rather internal male testes, which are producing large amounts of testosterone.

The newspaper said the IAAF was trying to contact her to inform her of the results.

After dominating her race at the world championships in Berlin last month, Semenya was given blood and chromosome tests and a gynecological examination.

"These tests do not suggest any suspicion of deliberate misconduct but seek to assess the possibility of a potential medical condition, which would give Semenya an unfair advantage," IAAF spokesman Nick Davies told the paper.

The IAAF has said Semenya would probably keep her medal because the case was not related to drugs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Caster Semenya

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Local

Terry Fox Run kicks off in Stanley Park

The 2009 Terry Fox Run in Stanley Park is this Sunday. Registration for the cancer fundraiser starts at 8 a.m. at Ceperley Park near Second Beach. The event features a 10-kilometre run and three-kilometre walk.

METRO VANCOUVER

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
2009 Festival of Media Awards

News in brief

UNVEILED The artwork that will represent the 2010 Pride House in Whistler, the first Olympic gay pavilion, has been unveiled, left. It was created by local artist Catherine Pulleyblank and uses simple lines to embody the Sea to Sky corridor and celebrate the diversity of people.

POT About $3 million worth of marijuana was found at the largest-ever grow op bust in Chilliwack, RCMP say.

GUN A man has been arrested in Langley for pointing a pellet gun at a driver who honked at him for jaywalking. The 19-year-old was captured with the aid of a police dog.

MUSIC GM Place is hosting the Canadian Country Music Awards this Sunday.

DEAL Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan will sign an economic partnership deal Friday when their cabinets hold a joint meeting in Calgary.

PICKTON The lawyer for Robert Pickton wants to expand his appeal before the Supreme Court of Canada. Gil McKinnon said he wants to argue issues that include the judge not instructing the jury on how aiding and abetting would apply to Pickton. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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SkyTrain crime on decline

Transit police chief credits new crime-fighting tools for improvement

Safety at Surrey Central Station, often cited as the "scariest" SkyTrain station, is much improved, according to transit police.

In his annual report, Chief Ward Clapham said crime at that station plunged 46 per cent between May 2008 and April 2009. Overall, crime at or within 100 metres of a SkyTrain station fell modestly by 3.8 per cent.

Inside stations however, the drop was much more significant. Crime at stations fell 31.5 per cent over that 12-month period. Clapham is attributing the drop to a new emphasis on "reassurance policing" — a 44-point plan that includes a visible presence of officers at key stations and regular police "walkarounds" in the vicinity of stations.

"Through the 'feet on the ground' nature of our service, we are meeting with the public every day to help build a strong sense of community through transit," Clapham said.

He added the results involved crime-fighting tools unique to the transportation system such as the use of cameras.

METRO VANCOUVER

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Jewelry theft topped $100K, say city police

CRIME A 4.5-carat diamond and a pricey gold watch have been stolen from a home in a tony West Vancouver neighbourhood, police said on Thursday.

Calling it a "prominent diamond," Cpl. Fred Harding said the jewel, which could be valued at more than $100,000, is an heirloom of the Grassy Fairbanks Jewellery Store.

"Apparently, Grassy Fairbanks was the oldest jewelry store in Western Canada predating many of the established jewelry families that remain," Harding. "The diamond was purchased many years ago."

A Patek Phillipe gold watch was also taken during the heist on Tuesday night. Thieves entered the home in the Gleneagles neighbourhood through an open garage door.

METRO VANCOUVER

Ambleside Park gets set for Summer Sessions

CONCERT The Sarah McLachlan Foundation should receive a nice financial boost after this weekend's sold-old Summer Sessions concert at West Vancouver's Ambleside Park.

Headlined by mega-stars Sarah McLachlan, Sheryl Crow and Neil Young, the benefit event is raising money to provide free music programs to children in underserved communities.

McLachlan, who lives in West Vancouver, said the concert will "entertain and inspire, while increasing awareness of the need for music in children's lives."

"I am thrilled to have Neil and Sheryl join me on stage at Ambleside Park … to help raise funds for my Foundation," the singer said in a release.

Ambleside Park will close at midnight on Friday to prepare for the show. Dustin Bentall is scheduled to open at 2:15 Saturday afternoon. Sheryl Crow performs at 7:05 p.m., followed by Neil Young at 8:10 and Sarah McLachlan closes at 9:15 p.m.

The park reopens to the public on Sunday at 7 p.m.

METRO VANCOUVER

Sarah McLachlan

Free Yoga **New centre opens**

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver is reflected in the TD Tower as people participate in a free outdoor yoga class to mark the opening of a yoga centre in downtown Vancouver Thursday.

metronews.ca WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs The Garden Peasant marks the end of the 100-Day Raw Food Challenge with a recipe for leek and potato soup

Video Rivals blast Stephen Harper as two-faced after videotaped comments released to media at metronews.ca/canada

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Cineplex offers Tuesday deals

Cineplex is offering half-price combos on Tuesdays that include a movie, popcorn and fountain drink as part of its Telus Tuesdays promotion. Cineplex cinemas in the Vancouver area include the Scotiabank Theatre and SilverCity Metropolis. **METRO VANCOUVER**

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LANGARA COLLEGE

War resister ordered out

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

"The hardest thing for me would be to leave my son. I don't want to be torn away from him."
Rodney Watson

An American war resister who has called Vancouver home for the past two years has been ordered to leave the country by Friday.

Rodney Watson, who fled to Canada after finding out that his contract would be extended and he would be returned to a war zone in Iraq or Afghanistan, left a press conference Thursday without taking questions to attend a hearing at Federal Court in Vancouver.

"The hardest thing for me would be to leave my son," said a choked-up Watson, who has an eight-month-old with his Canadian fiancée. "I don't want to be torn away from him … I know that if I'm deported and sent to prison I will not be able to see any of those moments for who knows how long."

Sarah Bjorknas, a member of the War Resisters Support Campaign, said resisters who are returned to the U.S. face about a year in prison.

News in brief

TRANSIT Student organizations representing 65,000 students in the Lower Mainland launched a OnePassNow campaign Thursday to call for an affordable, universal transit pass for all students. Students at UBC pay $23.75 a month, but students at other schools pay as much as $73.

WEST NILE A second case of human infection with the West Nile virus has been confirmed in B.C. The two infected individuals live in the same house in the Okanagan and were bitten by mosquitoes at the same time.

NDP Federal NDP Leader Jack Layton kicked off his campus tour at UBC on Thursday. He talked to students about how young people can get involved and effect change.

SHOTS A man was arrested Thursday morning after multiple gunshots were heard in Abbotsford. Police found shell casings and arrested a man who was trying to leave the area. A search of his house discovered a marijuana grow operation.

HOMES Some of the 105 Tsawwassen homes bought by the B.C. government are going on sale this Saturday, news1130.com reports. Area homeowners fearing health problems due to overhead powerlines sold — sometimes at about $70,000 below market price — after the government refused to bury the high-voltage wires.

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Woman dies from fall while ghost hunting

A 29-year-old woman is dead after falling about four storeys while trying to jump across a section of a building in downtown Toronto. City police Sgt. Dave Vickers says the woman was apparently ghost hunting in the building at about 2 a.m. when she fell. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Don't expect a raise any time soon

Canadians hoping to get a big boost in their paycheques next year may be somewhat disappointed, a survey of employers by Hewitt Associates suggests. The human resources consulting firm said the average salary increase is projected to be 2.8 per cent nationally in 2010, an increase from 2.2 per cent in 2009, when many companies made major cuts to their salary budgets. On the lower end was Ontario, which is projected at a 2.6 per cent increase. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Expect more deficits: Flaherty

BUDGET Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says Ottawa will run deficits for two years longer than originally forecast and the country will be in the red at least until 2015.

As well, he said the deficit for this year will be over $5 billion more than originally thought, moving up to a projected $55.9 billion from $50.2 billion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

JUDICIAL Stephen Harper appointed a former Tory cabinet minister to a senior judicial post Thursday. Pierre Blais, who served as justice minister under former prime minister Brian Mulroney, is the new chief justice of the Federal Court of Appeal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Iggy blasts 'real' Harper

Liberal leader says PM's comments show his true colours

Stephen Harper's rivals say his behind-closed-door musings about winning a majority, stamping out separatists and socialists, and keeping liberals out of the courts prove he's two-faced.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff says videotaped comments that leaked out publicly Thursday show the true prime minister.

"There have always been two Harpers," Ignatieff told a news conference Thursday.

"The real Harper always comes out when he thinks he can't be heard."

He said the real Harper is disdainful of the social institutions Canadians hold dear, like the justice system, and disrespectful of other political parties.

Ignatieff also scoffed at the closed-door rallying cry for a majority. He said he's toured the country this summer and met jobless Canadians — who would "laugh in your face" if asked whether Harper deserves a majority.

He said it's no longer possible to work with a man so contemptuous of basic Canadian values, and reiterated his plan to bring down the Conservative government.

"(Harper's) already lost the confidence of the House once," Ignatieff said, referring to the attempted coalition takedown of the Tories last year.

"He's about to lose it a second time."

For political reasons, Harper has for years avoided uttering his desire for a majority. But in a private partisan speech that has leaked out, he repeatedly discusses his desire to achieve one.

In the speech to fellow Tories, Harper also describes how their party has kept leftists from being appointed to public institutions — including the courts.

"Imagine how many left-wing ideologues they would be putting in the courts, federal institutions, agencies, the Senate? I should say, how many more, they would be putting in," Harper said.

Despite the characterization of Harper as two-faced, none of those private musings actually contradict anything the prime minister has ever said publicly.

He has simply avoided discussing them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Swine flu epidemic to peak in fall: Study

Flu Outbreak

BUDGET Swine flu is likely to reach its epidemic peak in Canada this fall, a full month before the country has vaccines to prevent it, a major new study shows.

Indeed, vaccines will come too late to stop H1N1's spread across North America this fall, according to the paper, published today in the journal Science.

Had a vaccine been available for mass inoculations this month, the virus' spread would have been no worse than a typical seasonal flu outbreak, the paper says.

But with large-scale vaccinations unlikely to begin until mid-November in Canada and mid-October in the United States, they will do little to protect millions of North Americans from infection, researchers say.

"If that (vaccine timetable) unfolds, we're not going to have much effect on transmission," says Ira Longini, a professor of biostatistics at the University of Washington.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Halifax **Spidey drops by for a visit**

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO CANADA

Spiderman poses for a photo as he spins his web in Halifax on Thursday. Spidey, a.k.a. John Ratchford — a photographer from Nova Scotia — was jumping around on lightposts and mailboxes as he made his way through downtown Halifax.

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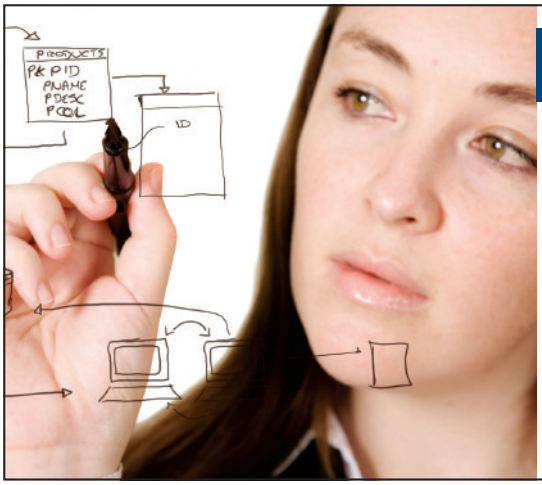

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Czech election off
The Czech constitutional court ruled Thursday that early national elections scheduled for Oct. 9-10 will not take place because the law that allowed them to occur suspended the constitution. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Fastest cat puts Usain Bolt to shame

The Cincinnati Zoo says one of its cheetahs has become the fastest land mammal on record — twice. Zoo officials say an eight-year-old female named Sarah ran 100 metres in just over six seconds Wednesday. That breaks the old record set in 2001 by a cheetah in South Africa. The speed translates to more than 58 kilometres per hour. The human 100-metre record holder is Usain Bolt of Jamaica. He's a relative slowpoke at over 9 seconds. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A 'shoe-in' as a national celebrity

IRAQ The Iraqi television reporter who threw his shoes at former U.S. President George W. Bush might use his new iconic status in Iraq to promote humanitarian causes, his family said.

The reporter, Muntadhar al-Zeidi, is to be released Monday after nine months in prison. He will be greeted by a nation where many feel his act of protest encapsulated their own bitterness over war and U.S. Al-Zeidi, a 30-year-old bachelor who was a virtual unknown, now has undeniable star power and is contemplating his future.

"My understanding is that al-Zeidi might quit his work as a journalist," his brother Dargham said.

"Rather, he told me he is interested in working in a humanitarian organization or becoming an activist for women's and orphans' rights." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Feeling the wrath of Twitter

Earlier this week, Joe Wilson was just another relatively obscure Republican U.S. congressman.

By Thursday, the South Carolina politician had become a cause célèbre thanks to two words shouted angrily at Barack Obama during the president's address to Congress: "You lie!"

For Canadians accustomed to the bare-knuckled verbal brawling that goes on during Question Period, the continuing fallout from Wilson's outburst might seem puzzling. But since 1952, American presidents have called together joint sessions of Congress to address major national issues only 15 times. Rarely, if ever, has a president been heckled.

While Democrats booed during two of George W. Bush's addresses, Wilson's shouted allegation that Obama was lying about health-care reform was seen as particularly egregious.

Wilson's startling breach of congressional decorum, in fact, has angered Republicans and Democrats alike.

Arizona Senator John McCain called it "totally disrespectful."

"There is no place for it in that setting, or any other, and he should apologize for it immediately," he said.

Wilson apologized for his outburst late Wednesday night. Obama, for his part, said he accepted Wilson's apology.

Wilson has become an Internet sensation as his name was among the top searches on Google on Thursday. The Twitter and Facebook reaction to his outburst was swift and ruthless. His Wikipedia page was locked Wednesday night after repeated attempts to vandalize it, and his website went offline as countless Twitter and Facebook users posted its URL and the politician's office phone number. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Just like that

- Some social networkers provided information about Rob Miller, a U.S. Marine and Iraq war veteran who is Joe Wilson's political rival in the next mid-term election. By mid-Thursday, Miller's campaign coffers were $123,000 US richer.

MELINA MARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican Rep. Joe Wilson, centre, points as U.S. President Barack Obama addresses U.S. Congress on Wednesday.

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News in brief

SIERRA LEONE More than 200 people, including several schoolchildren, were missing and feared dead Thursday, a day after a boat capsized at sea, authorities said. Thirty-nine passengers have been rescued so far off the coast of the West African nation, said Naval Lt. Cmdr. Mao Suma, who is in charge of the rescue operation, which will continue at least until Saturday. Search teams have recovered 16 bodies, Suma said, and 213 people are missing and feared dead. "We are not expecting any more survivors because of the turbulence of the sea in the area," Suma said.

BRITAIN British Prime Minister Gordon Brown on Thursday discussed the release of the Lockerbie bomber with U.S. President Barack Obama. A spokesman for Brown's office said the prime minister made it clear it was a matter for the Scottish government. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Sudan caught with its pants down

GlobalView

Talk about shooting yourself in the foot. The Sudanese regime surely didn't reckon with the phenomenon of Lubna Hussein, the journalist arrested along with 12 others in Khartoum in July and charged with "indecency" for wearing trousers in public.

Not only did she refuse the flogging sentence that 10 of those women accepted, she went to court to contest the charge, determined to show it has no basis in Islamic teaching and using her clout as a journalist to speak out for so many other women who can't.

The entire world was watching when a judge waived the flogging sentence Monday and ordered her to pay a $200 fine.

But Hussein kicked the ball right back at the Khartoum government, refusing to pay the fine and choosing instead to spend a month in jail to show solidarity with the thousands of other women, Muslim and non-Muslim, that the so-called Islamic Sudanese regime singles out for its brand of hollow piety.

Shockingly, such charges are not unusual in Khartoum, where a police official says nearly 43,000 women were detained last year for indecent clothing offences.

The Sudanese regime picked on the wrong woman with Hussein. Despite her request to family and friends not to pay the fine on her behalf, the head of the Journalists Union — a member of the ruling party — paid the fine and Hussein was almost pushed out of prison — television news reports show her looking upset at being told to leave.

She said she didn't want to leave behind the almost 800 women who had no one to pay the fine for them.

Ponder that for a moment — the Sudanese authorities essentially ended up paying a fine for a ridiculous charge they invented. Forget shooting yourself in the foot — they scored an own goal!

Just before Hussein was released, the UN human rights office said her conviction violated both the bill of rights in Sudan's interim constitution as well as international human rights treaties ratified by Sudan.

We know what Lubna Hussein did to expose the Sudanese regime's moral bankruptcy. What will the UN, for which Hussein used to work, do? She resigned from that job — which could have provided her immunity — to contest the charges.

It's about time the UN kicked out Sudan and other countries that so egregiously violate women's most basic rights in the name of "decency."

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She reported on the Middle East for 10 years before moving to the U.S.

Views

Legal system update nothing to laugh about

UrbanCompass

Reading government reports takes patience.

Take the B.C. attorney general's annual service plan update on the legal system.

Start on page one, and it's all good news, a list of the year's legal triumphs: 10 more prosecutors to fight gang warfare; bad guys get reduced credit for time served in pre-trial; organized crime tools are beefed up; B.C. takes the lead in cracking down on identity theft and the community court turns out to be a roaring success, dealing with 1,100 offenders in its first six months.

If, however, you manage to make it through the ensuing thicket of government propaganda, the real story emerges on page 12, and these highlights are not as pretty. By its own count, the province fails to achieve success on 12 of 13 of its stated objectives.

And the bar isn't set very high. You'd have trouble doing the limbo under the only one the ministry did reach. It hoped a measly 12 per cent of British Columbians would perceive that civil and family courts do a good job of providing justice quickly, and that's exactly what it got. Some achievement. The government failed to reach all of its other targets.

Some of the performance results echo Jarndyce vs. Jarndyce, Dickens' infamous indictment of the Victorian legal system in Bleak House. It took 320 days to resolve a case in small claims court and 85 days to resolve a criminal case in provincial court. The cost of an average trial in B.C. Supreme Court is $60,000. One disgruntled citizen called a radio station and complained someone owes him $60,000 but he's going to write it off because it would cost $70,000 to collect.

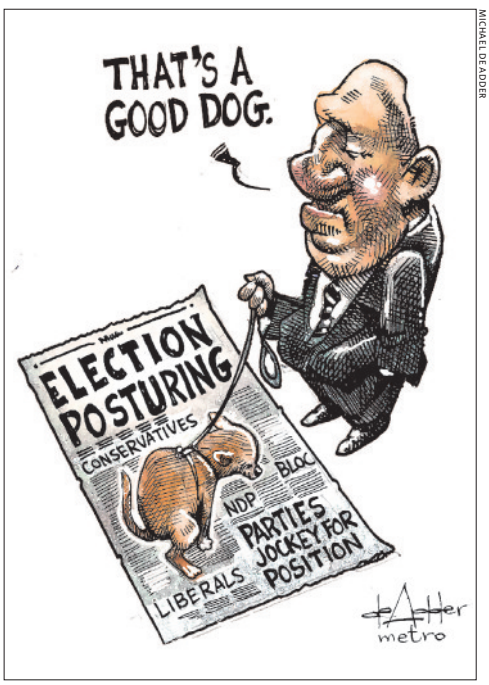
Confidence in the system is justifiably low. Only 26 per cent think the courts are even capable of determining guilt or innocence. Just 44 per cent have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in the justice system.

This is B.C., the, uh, "Best Place on Earth," not some third-rate banana state. Could it be that we've thrown so much money at the health-care system over the years that we've allowed the legal system to collapse? And collapse it has if you have to pay an average $60,000 and wait 320 days for justice to be done.

As a smiling Mike De Jong says in his covering letter to the report: "The justice system is a vital component of a democratic society and a foundation of a just and prosperous province." Considering the state of the system described in the document that follows, I'm left with one question:

Why is that man laughing?

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Sales at Dollarama Group, Canada's largest operator of discount stores, jumped nearly 15 per cent to $303.4 million in the second quarter from $264.3 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Bank of Canada says economy bouncing back even stronger

The Canadian economy is bouncing back from the recession stronger than previously believed, despite ongoing worries about the impact of a strong dollar, the Bank of Canada said Thursday, as it left interest rates untouched at the lowest level practicable.

In July, Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney appeared to go out on a limb in declaring the recession over — one of the first to do so — but now the central bank says even Carney underestimated the rebound.

"Stimulative monetary and fiscal policies, improved financial conditions, firmer commodity prices, and a rebound in business and consumer confidence are supporting domestic demand growth in Canada," the bank said in a statement.

To me it shows the bank is increasingly confident in the view ... the recession is over ... economy is turning the corner."
Douglas Porter, BMO Capital Markets

"Combined with recent information on inventory adjustments and automotive production, this suggests that GDP (gross domestic product) growth in the second half of 2009 could be stronger than the bank projected in July."

The unexpected strength will not impact interest rates, however. The bank said it will keep its key policy rate at the 0.25 per cent until at least next July, as it promised to do in the spring.

The strength in the domestic economy was borne out by July trade numbers that suggest the return of spending by Canadian consumers, with an 8.3 per cent pop in imports.

"To me it shows the bank is increasingly confident in the view ... the recession is over and the economy is turning the corner," said Douglas Porter, chief economist with the BMO Capital Markets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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GM's Opel goes to ... Magna

AUTOMOTIVE General Motors Co. said Thursday that Canada's Magna International Inc. and Russian lender Sberbank would take a majority stake in GM's European subsidiary Adam Opel GmbH, leaving the U.S. automaker with a minority stake that will enable it to continue developing vehicles with Opel.

Key issues — including agreement from labour unions to cost reductions and a financing package from the German government — remain to be finalized, GM said.

The deal was cheered by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who saw it as a jobs saver ahead of Sept. 27 national elections. Magna agreed to keep Opel's four German plants open.

Magna, headed by Austrian-born entrepreneur Frank Stronach, hopes to use the Opel deal and an alliance with Russian carmaker Gaz to boost shipments of vehicles and parts from Europe to Russia, which could soon become Europe's largest car market, surpassing Germany. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

CARS General Motors Co. says it will allow new car buyers to return their vehicles within two months of purchasing them for a full refund if they're not satisfied. The program is part of a sweeping, new marketing campaign, called "May the Best Car Win." It wasn't immediately known if the program would apply to Canadian vehicles. The automaker says it will help prove its vehicles are competitive when it comes to quality and performance. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roundtable on Arthritis Research

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Oilers sign Comrie
Veteran forward Mike Comrie is returning to Edmonton. The Oilers have agreed to terms on a one-year contract with the 28-year-old centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports

Crosby meets Obama

United States President Barack Obama welcomed Sidney Crosby and his 2009 Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins to the White House on Thursday, celebrating the hockey team for its performance on and off the ice.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Sports in brief

NFL Jeff Reed kicked a 33-yard field goal with 4:32 gone in overtime and the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers again relied on Ben Roethlisberger's ability to lead clutch scoring drives to beat the Tennessee Titans 13-10 in the NFL season opener Thursday night.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Coyotes' third option

Judge says there may no winner of auction

The battle for the bankrupt Phoenix Coyotes is officially down to BlackBerry billionaire Jim Balsillie and the NHL — and both may see their bids rejected.

Judge Redfield T. Baum pointed out in Thursday's hearing that a sale isn't guaranteed to come from Friday's auction.

"There's third possibility here — no sale," said Baum.

"It's more than theoretical. You all ought to keep that in mind."

Baum reaffirmed the bids from the two parties early in the hearing and asked if there were any other offers to be considered in the auction.

No one else stepped forward.

The league and Balsillie's company PSE each confirmed their bids at the beginning of Thursday's session.

The NHL's offer was subject to some tough questioning from the judge.

"I can't approve a bid I don't understand," said Baum.

He clarified that only $2 million US in cash is guaranteed to go to the estate from the NHL bid and argued that the league should not be able to select which creditors get paid, a component of the league's current bid.

Balsillie's is the highest bid, as much as $242.5 million, and is contingent moving the Coyotes to Hamilton.

The NHL has offered $140 million and intends to keep the Coyotes in the desert for now.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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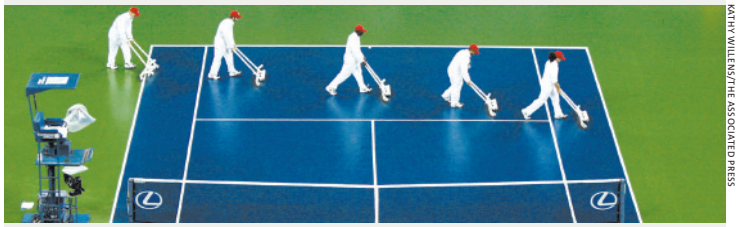
U.S. Open **Rained out**



KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Workers attempt to dry the court after play was suspended for the night because of rain during a match between Rafael Nadal and Fernando Gonzalez at the U.S. Open on Thursday night.

Spruce Meadows unequalled

FieldofPlay
Scott Russell
metronews.ca/fieldofplay

Of all the outdoor venues for sport in Canada, the International Ring at Spruce Meadows, on the outskirts of Calgary, stands out as a diamond in the rough.

To many it is a revelation.

Spruce Meadows is an under-appreciated jewel where, since its opening in 1975, millions of people from around the world have flocked. Experts agree that this venue has few, if any equals on the face of the earth.

The grounds at Spruce Meadows had their beginnings as a cattle feed lot more than 30 years ago, but steadily the place has blossomed into horse heaven and the final word in show jumping.

Comprised of 360 acres including two indoor and six outdoor competition rings, it has stabling for 1,000 horses. The place stages three seasonal tournaments and each year attendance approaches and often exceeds 500,000. The record one-day total in the showcase International Ring is 65,000, recorded last September as the Olympic medallists from Canada returned home to take on their rivals at the Spruce Meadows Masters.

There is an immense clock tower flanked by sprawling grandstands and a giant natural grass bank where families rush to sit on blankets and watch the spectacular horses jump on the immaculate turf. The grass is always groomed to an emerald green in spite of the precocious foothills weather and luxuriates over the space of four full football fields in the shadow of the majestic Rockies.

Spruce Meadows can take your breath away.

There is also a magic goes beyond the competition it fosters. At Spruce Meadows it has always been about accessibility. Admission for the day is five dollars per family and if you don't have the coin they'll let you in free.

All of which makes the International Ring at Spruce Meadows a masterpiece stadium not to be missed.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

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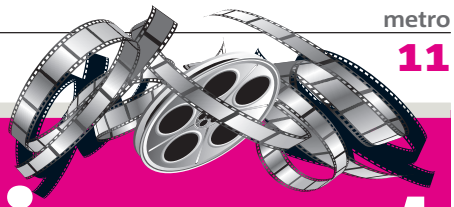

Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Here comes the fun Pg 12

Drew Barrymore makes her directorial debut with Whip It, a comedy about a Texas teen — played by Ellen Page — who turns to the rugged world of roller derby. It's just one of a few films in a highly anticipated fall movie season that includes Amelia Earhart and Michael Jackson.

Movies Pg 14

Whiteout, Beckinsale leave viewers feeling pretty cold.

Music Pg 17

Country star Reba's got it all — except for the big head.

Television Pg 18

VMA host Russell Brand has a warning for Lady Gaga.

read metro. read mor

At a glance
Whiteout ⊕⊕,
Unmistaken Child ⊕⊕⊕½

Movies

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

Canadian actress Ellen Page, centre, takes on the rugged world of roller derby in Whip it, directed by Drew Barrymore.

(Above) Megan Fox stars as a demonic teen in the Diablo Cody-penned Jennifer's Body; (Right) Woody Harrelson plays a hunter of the undead in Zombieland.

Hot films for fall days

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Autumn is always the most varied movie season of the year.

From heart-tugging chick flicks like Jennifer Aniston's Love Happens (Sept. 18) to a Bruce Willis-led thriller called Surrogates (Sept. 25) and even festival films like Toronto's biopic opener Creation (Sept. 25), the fall provides something for just about anyone.

For that reason, multiplexes provide a great relief for those who need a break from days getting shorter, the imminent prospect of having to rake a lawn covered in leaves or filmgoers who simply crave a cinematic escape. Here's Metro's look at some promising movies you may want to watch out for this fall:

Fall Preview

JENNIFER'S BODY (SEPT. 18): Juno-scribe Diablo Cody penned this horror movie about a demonic, cannibalistic cheerleader (Megan Fox) who eats her way through school — and I'm not talking the cafeteria's meatloaf either.

FAME (SEPT. 25): A re-invention of the 1980 Oscar-winning film that centred on a group of young struggling dancers, this movie will "learn how to fly high" at the box-office.

ZOMBIELAND (OCT. 2): We need another zombie movie like the walking dead need massage therapy but this comedy about a rag-tag group of zombie-hunters should add a little levity to the genre.

COUPLES RETREAT (OCT. 9): Vince Vaughn leads this laugher about four couples engaged in group therapy at a resort. Now who doesn't like to giggle at dysfunctional marriages when they're not your own?

WHIP IT (OCT. 9): Drew Barrymore makes her directorial-debut with this comedy about a Texas teen (Ellen Page) that turns to the rugged world of roller derby.

THE ROAD (OCT. 16): This bleak, post-apocalyptic drama starring Viggo Mortensen should perk the interest of the throngs who've read Cormac McCarthy's popular Pulitzer Prize-winning book.

AMELIA (OCT. 23): Shot in Winnipeg and Halifax, Hilary Swank stars as 1930's aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart whose mysterious disappearance is still unsolved. Oops, I may have just spoiled the ending.

THIS IS IT (OCT. 23): The now infamous film patchworks the last days of pop star Michael Jackson and his rehearsals for the 50-date concert that was not to be.

DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL (NOV. 6): Robert Zemeckis (The Polar Express) utilizes groundbreaking 3-D animation to re-imagine the Charles Dickens classic that annually announces the beginning of winter and sadly, the end of autumn.

On the web

• For movie trailers, photos and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

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Emma's witch connection

You think Emma Watson won her Harry Potter role just because of her talent and beauty? According ancestry.com, the 19-year-old actress is a distant relative of Joan Playle, who was convicted of witchcraft in 1592. PEOPLE.COM

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Good girls gone blood

Getting covered in gore was a blast: Audrina Patridge

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Actress and television personality Audrina Patridge understands the volatile dynamic that often evolves around young women whose social lives are too tightly linked.

Her MTV reality show The Hills charted the behaviours between her and a group of Los Angeles women and was a smash hit.

Her latest offering, the horror thriller Sorority Row, treads similar ground and many people get smashed and hit, not to mention bludgeoned, hacked, stabbed...

The film — a loose remake of the 1983 slasher opus The House on Sorority Row — stars Patridge as one of a gaggle of college girls (including Rumer Willis, Leah Pipes and Briana Evigan) whose prank gone wrong results in mass murder and cheesecake terror.

Sorority Row opens in theatres today

Although not prescreened for critics in its entirety, (the first 20 minutes were revealed to a select few earlier this year), the picture appears to be a high gloss, exploitation quickie with Patridge — although her turn is brief — exhibiting a surprising amount of dramatic, on-the-throes-of-death chops.

Yes, it's no secret that the comely starlet is the first to go… and graphically so.

"There is so much blood, it's awesome," says Patridge about her messy but pivotal part. "I've loved horror movies all of my life and I was so excited to do it and get covered in all that gore. It was so sticky and cold and crazy nasty. I had a blast."

Mass murder and mayhem ensue when a prank by a gaggle of college girls goes horribly wrong in Sorority Row.

Movie feature

Although the plot of Sorority Row sees the aforementioned damsels turn on each other as tensions mount and bodies pile-up, Patridge claims their of screen dynamic was anything but vicious.

"We all bonded really quickly and became really close. In the movie, not so much but in reality our chemistry was fantastic and we're still all really good friends."

Earlier this year, Patridge announced that she was leaving The Hills to pursue her own reality program called, appropriately, The Audrina Show.

But although Sorority Row is only her second feature film (the first being 2008's Into the Blue 2), the actress doesn't want to only be known as a TV star and hopes to continue exploring her new muse.

"I'd really love to do a period film," she admits. "I'm obsessed with The Tudors. I would go insane if I could that wear those elegant, feminine costumes and enter another time and place."

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Akerman 'sweaty' over Obama

The First Lady better watch out. Swedish-Canadian Watchmen star Malin Akerman has a thing for Barack Obama. "I get sweaty palms when I think about him," she tells Esquire magazine. POPEATER.COM

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Whiteout comes off cold

Whiteout
Director: Dominic Sena
Stars: Kate Beckinsale
Classification: STC
Rating:

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

If anyone was worried they weren't going to get to see enough of Kate Beckinsale in her new Antarctica-set thriller Whiteout, fear not.

Sub-zero temperatures or not, the filmmakers still shamelessly work in a steamy shower scene for their star, complete with a detailed account of her stripping out of her clothes — though this could pass for exposition, since now we know exactly how many layers are needed to keep warm down there.

So fans of Beckinsale's more revealing work — in, say, Underworld — have been satisfied. But what about viewers looking for a taut thriller to wrap their minds around? Look elsewhere. While Whiteout isn't bad by any stretch of the imagination, it is wholly unsatisfying, both technically proficient and incredibly boring.

Kate Beckinsale gets caught in murder in Whiteout.

In short, while a U.S. marshal (Beckinsale) waits out the last hours of her self-imposed exile at a post at the South Pole, the icy continent plays host to purportedly its first homicide, threatening our heroine's hopes for making a flight to warmer climates along with her safety.

But aside from a thrilling prologue set 50 years earlier and an impressively frightening encounter early on with the axe-wielding masked killer, there's little in this thriller that thrills.

• For Whiteout photos, a trailer and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

Hader, Faris dig into Meatballs voiceover

HEIDI PATALANO
for Metro Canada

FEATURE "My relationship with food is very neutral. We're just friends," says SNL comedian Bill Hader, while doing press for 3-D animated feature Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs.

Hader voices Flint Lockwood, a crackpot inventor who makes it rain cheeseburgers and pea soup for the local citizens of Chewandswallow, who suffered for years with only anchovies to eat.

Though the film, based on a children's storybook of the same name, focuses on the town's growing dilemma of this unstoppable raining food, Hader and co-star Anna Faris say that what they loved most about the film was it's celebration of geek-dom.

"It's kind of a cool moment when you realize that that can be attractive to somebody, that being yourself is kinda good," says Hader. "I remember the first time I met my wife, I went to her apartment and she had Star Wars curtains. I said, 'I am going to marry you.'"

"Bill and I are both geeks," Faris says, before Hader swiftly reminds her to speak for herself. But Faris persists, "I used to wear a Christmas tree skirt as a cape and now I feel cool enough to talk about it."

Doing the animated film was a challenge for both comedic actors, who thought they were in for an easy ride.

"It's the hardest job that I've ever had," says Hader. "It's such a unique challenge to try to channel everything into your voice. You say the same line three times in a row, talk about it and do it again."

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Child engaging journey

Unmistaken Child
Director: Nati Baratz
Classification: STC
Rating:

IAN GORMELY
for Metro Canada

A scene from Unmistaken Child, featuring the Dalai Lama. The documentary follows a Tibetan monk's quest to find the reincarnation of his master, Lama Konchog.

Many directors want to answer some of life's greatest existential questions like why are we here or is there a God? But all documentary filmmaker Nati Baratz wants is to find one toddler in the mountains of Nepal.

In his new film Unmistaken Child, Baratz follows Tenzin Zopa, a Tibetan monk on his journey to find the reincarnation of Lama Konchog, his recently deceased life-long master.

Through a series of meetings Tenzin determines that Konchog was reincarnated as a young boy somewhere in the Nepalese mountains. Knowing no other life than the one he had with his master, Tenzin sets out scouring local villages — including a return trip to his own — for young male toddlers, looking for any sign of recognition when he dangles Konchog's old prayer beads in front of them.

When he finally discovers one who he believes is Konchog's reincarnation, Tenzin still needs confirmation of the reincarnation from the other lamas. And even if this child is Konchog, the child's fate lies in the hands of his parents who must choose between their son and their faith; are they willing to give up their child so he can pursue religious studies with other monks?

This is a beautifully shot and engaging film, even if you think reincarnation is mystic hooey. Baratz employs a cinema verite style, stepping back and following Tenzin across Nepal as he searches for his reincarnated master.

Though this gives viewers a better sense of what Tenzin must endure both physically and mentally, the lack of an objective voice deprives them of a deeper understanding of the Tibetan people and culture. Still, what is gleaned from Tenzin's journey is well worth the price of admission.

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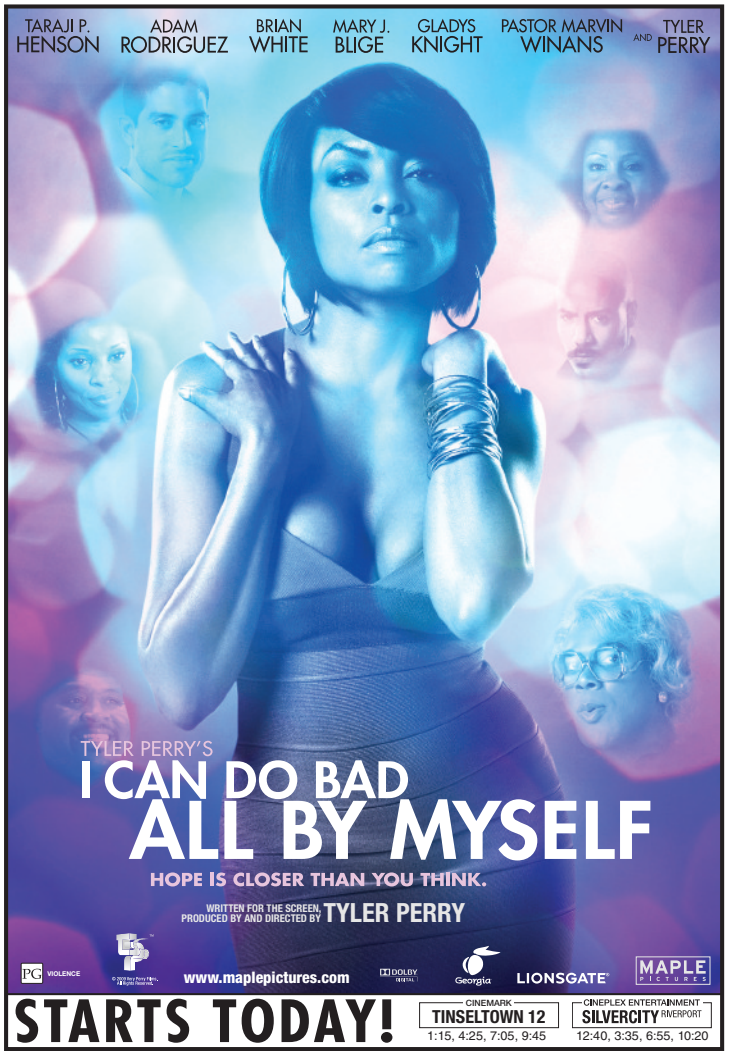

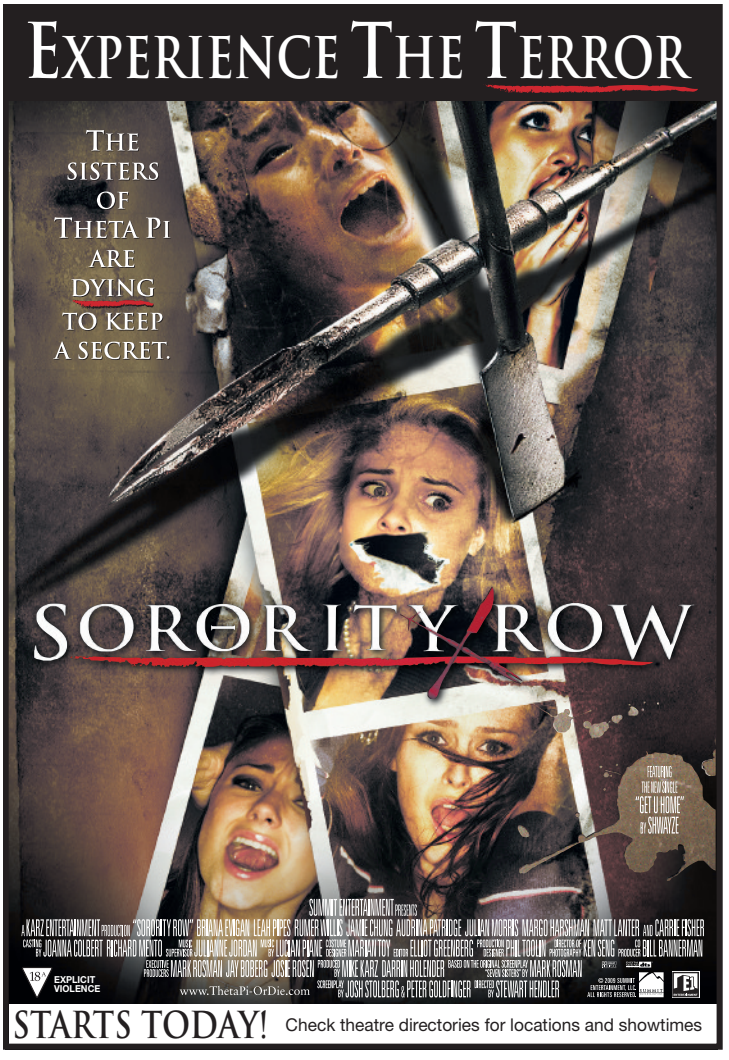

Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., SEPT. 11 TO THURS., SEPT. 17. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

VANCOUVER

OMNIMAX THEATRE SCIENCE WORLD
1455 Quebec St., 604-443-7443

Adrenaline Rush: The Science of Risk (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2-4 Fri-Sat
Beavers (STC) A.M. Fri 11 Sat 11-5 A.M. Sun-Thu 11
Roving Mars (G) Fri-Thu 3 Fri 7:30
Van Gogh: Brush With Genius (STC) Fri-Thu 1 Sat 7:30

CN IMAX THEATRE
201-999 Canada Place, 604-682-4629

Alaska: Spirit of the Wild (G) Fri-Thu 6
Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk in 3D (G) Fri 3 Sat-Sun 3-5 Mon-Thu 3
Star Trek: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 7
Under the Sea 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2-4

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri 7-10:15 Sat-Sun 3:45-7-10:15 Mon-Thu 7:30
Up (G) Sat-Sun 1:15

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

(500) Days of Summer (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3-5-7:10-9:15
9 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:30-5:30-7:20-9:10
Enlighten Up! (PG) Fri-Thu 3:15-7:30
In the Loop (18A) Fri-Tue 1:45-4:30-7-9:20 Wed 1:45-4:30-9:20 Thu 1:45-4:30-7-9:20
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4-6:50-9:25
Lorna's Silence (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-5:10-9:30

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

Brüno (18A) Fri 5:35-8:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:45-7:15-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:15
The Cove (PG) Fri 5:10-8:35 Sat-Sun 1:10-4-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:10-8:35
G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (14A) Fri 5:20-8:40 Sat-Sun 1-4:15-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:40
The Goods: Live Hard. Sell Hard. (14A) Fri 5:25-8:10 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:05-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:10
The Hurt Locker (14A) Fri 8:25 Sat-Sun 9:35 Tue-Thu 8:25
Moon (PG) Fri 6-8:20 Sat-Sun 1:25-3:55-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 6-8:20
Public Enemies (14A) Fri 5:05-8:30 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:50-6:45-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:05-8:30
Shorts (G) Fri 5:15 Sat 1:05-4:05-6:55 Sun 1:05 Tue-Thu 5:15
WWE Breaking Point (STC) Sun 5

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211
hollywoodtheatre.ca

Earth (G) Fri 9:20 Sat-Sun 3:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 9:20
Up (G) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

District 9 (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 7:15-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1-4-7:15-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 5:15-8
Inglourious Basterds (18A) DTS Digital Fri 7-10:10 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 2-7:10:10 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5-8:15
Whiteout (14A) DTS Digital, No Passes Fri 7:30-10 DTS Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-7:30-10 DTS Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456
cinematheque.bc.ca

About Face: The Story of Gwendellin Bradshaw (STC) Wed 8
Call Theatre For Showtimes (STC) Fri-Thu
His Girl Friday (STC) Tue 1
Vancouver Latin American Film Festival (STC) Fri-Thu

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

All About Steve (PG) Fri 4-7-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:45-4-7-9:10 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:10
Bright Star (G) A.M. Sat 10

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

Julie & Julia (PG) Wed 1
Unmistaken Child (G) Fri 4-7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:45-4-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:15

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

The Dark Crystal (STC) Fri 12
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Wed 6:30-9:30
Labyrinth (STC) Fri

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

9 (PG) Fri-Thu 12-2:20-4:45-7:20-9:50
All About Steve (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:30 Wed-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:30
District 9 (18A) Fri 1-4-7:10 Sat 1 Sun-Thu 1-4-7-10 Sat 4-7:10
The Final Destination 3D (18A) Fri-Thu 12:40-2:50-5:7:50-10:10
Gamer (18A) Fri-Tue 12:30-3:10-6:30-9:20 Wed 3:50-6:30-9:20 Thu 12:30-3:10-6:30-9:20
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:30-7:10-10:40
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri 12:20-3:20-6:40-9:40 Sat 3:30-6:40-9:40 Sun 12:20-3:20-6:40-9:40 Mon 12:20-3:20-9:40 Tue-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:40-9:40
Last Night of the Proms (STC) Sat 11:30
Sorority Row (18A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-7:30-10:20
Whiteout (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:40-10:30

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799
cinemark.com

(500) Days of Summer (PG) Fri-Thu 2:50-5:05-7:30-9:50
Cold Souls (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:05-4:35-7:10-9:35
Extract (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 3-5:20-7:40-10:05
Funny People (18A) Fri-Thu 4:05-10
Halloween II (18A) Fri-Thu 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:25
The Hangover (18A) Fri-Thu 2:35-5:25-7:50-10:20
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 3:30-6:50-10:10 No Passes Wed 3:30-10:10 No Passes Thu 3:30-6:50-10:10
Paper Heart (G) Fri-Thu 2:55-5:10-7:25-9:40
Ponyo (G) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7-9:30
Taking Woodstock (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-7:15
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:40-7:20-9:55
Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All By Myself (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:15-4:25-7:05-9:45
The Ugly Truth (14A) Fri-Thu 2:25-4:50-7:35-10:15

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street, 604-683-Film
vifc.org

Latin American Film Festival (STC) Sat-Mon
Spark Animation Film Festival (STC) Wed-Thu

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313
vaneast.com

District 9 (18A) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 4:45-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

The Final Destination 3D (18A) No Passes Fri 7:20-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:35-4:15-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:40
Gamer (18A) Fri-Thu 6:40-9:50
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri 6:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 2:30-6:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:45
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30
Shorts (G) Sat-Sun 2-4:05
Sorority Row (18A) Fri 7-10 Sat-Sun 1:55-4:30-7-10 Mon-Thu 7-10
Whiteout (14A) Digital Presentation, No Passes Fri 7:15-9:35 Digital Presentation, No Passes Sat-Sun 1:40-4-7:15-9:35 Digital Presentation, No Passes Mon-Thu 7:15-9:35

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

9 (PG) Fri 7:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:20-2:40-5:7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:45
All About Steve (PG) No Passes Fri 6:50-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:50-9:40 No Passes Mon-Tue 6:50-9:40 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
District 9 (18A) Fri 6:40-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:10-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:50
Extract (PG) Fri 7:20-10 Sat-Sun 12:50-3-5:10-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 7:20-10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
G-Force (G) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 12-2:30-4:50-7-9:20 Mon-Tue 7-9:20 Wed 9:20 Thu 7-9:20
Last Night of the Proms (STC) Sat 11:30
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat 2:50-6:30-9:30 Sun 12:10-2:50-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

District 9 (18A) Fri 4:15-7:10-9:55 Sat 1:25-4:15-7:10-9:55 Sun 1:25-4:15-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:10
Gamer (18A) Fri 4:25-7:20-9:40 Sat 1:35-4:25-7:20-9:40 Sun 1:35-4:25-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:20
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri 4-7:30 Sat 2:30-6:30-9:45 Sun 2:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 4-7:30
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri 4:05-6:55-9:50 Sat 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:50 Sun 1:15-4:05-6:55 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:55
Sorority Row (18A) Fri 4:20-7:05-9:30 Sat 1:30-4:20-7:05-9:30 Sun 1:30-4:20-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:05
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG) Fri 4:10-7-9:35 Sat 1:20-4:10-7-9:35 Sun 1:20-4:10-7 Mon-Thu 4:10-7

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

9 (PG) Fri-Wed 12:25-2:45-5:05-7:35-10:05 Thu 5:05-7:35-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
All About Steve (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:25-10:35 Wed-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:25-10:35
Apni Boli Apna Des (Punjabi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri-Thu 12:30-4:15-7:55
District 9 (18A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-7:15-9:45-10:15
Extract (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:35-7:05-9:40
The Final Destination 3D (18A) Fri-Thu 1:50-5-7:30-10
G-Force in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45
G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (14A) Fri-Sat 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:10 Sun 12:50-9 Mon-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:10
Gamer (18A) Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:45-10:25
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:30-8
Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:40-6:30-7:10-10:10:30
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:35-9:45
Last Night of the Proms (STC) Sat 11:30
Ponyo (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:50
Shorts (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:30-6:40
Sorority Row (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:05-7:50-10:35
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG) Fri 1:15-4:05-6:50-9:30 Sat 4:05-6:50-9:30 Sun-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:50-9:30
Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All By Myself (PG) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:35-6:55-10:20 Thu 3:35-6:55-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Ugly Truth (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35
Whiteout (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:50
WWE Breaking Point (STC) Sun 5

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Julie & Julia (PG) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Shorts (G) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 1-3-5-7-9 Mon-Thu 7-9

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

9 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-2:50-5:10-7:35-10
All About Steve (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:10-3:50-6:55-9:50 Wed-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:55-9:50
District 9 (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:30-7:30-10:10
The Final Destination 3D (18A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3-5:10-7:15-9:55
G-Force in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:40-5-7:25-9:30
G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (14A) Fri-Sat 12:10-3:30-6:40-9:35 Sun 12:10-9:35 Mon-Thu 12:10-3:30-6:40-9:35
Gamer (18A) Fri-Thu 1-4-7:05-9:45
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri-Thu 12-3:20-6:45-10:15
Sorority Row (18A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:40-7-9:40
Whiteout (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:15-7:20-10:05
WWE Breaking Point (STC) Sun 5

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

Extract (PG) Fri 5-7:20-9:40 Sat 2:20-5-7:20-9:40 Sun 2:20-5-7:20 Mon-Thu 5-7:20
Halloween II (18A) Fri 5:10-7:35-10 Sat 2:30-5:10-7:35-10 Sun 2:30-5:10-7:35 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:35
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) Fri 4:30-7:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:30
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri 4:40-7:10-9:45 Sat 2-4:40-7:10-9:45 Sun 2-4:40-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:10
Ponyo (G) Fri 4:55-7:15-9:30 Sat 2:10-4:55-7:15-9:30 Sun 2:10-4:55-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:15
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG) Fri 4:50-7:20-9:50 Sat 1:40-4:50-7:20-9:50 Sun 1:40-4:50-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:20
Up (G) Fri 4:45-7:05-9:25 Sat 1:50-4:45-7:05-9:25 Sun 1:50-4:45-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:05

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

(500) Days of Summer (PG) Fri 1:15-3:45-7:20-9:50 Sat 4-7:20-9:50 Sun-Thu 1:15-3:45-7:20-9:50
9 (PG) Fri-Tue 12:35-2:50-5:10-7:25-10:05 Wed 2:50-5:10-7:25-10:05 Thu 12:35-2:50-5:10-7:25-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
All About Steve (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:30-4-7:10 Wed 4-7:10 Thu 12:30-4-7:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
District 9 (18A) Fri-Sat 1:10-1:50-4:10-4:50-7:10-7:50-10:10-10:50 Sun 1:10-1:50-4:50-7:50-10:10-10:50 Mon-Thu 1:10-1:50-4:10-4:50-7:10-7:50-10:10-10:50
Extract (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:40
The Final Destination 3D (18A) Fri-Thu 12-2:35-5:15-7:45-10:15
G-Force in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:55-2:25-4:45-7:30-10:05
G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:25-7:20-10:15
Gamer (18A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45
Halloween II (18A) Fri-Thu 9:50
The Hangover (18A) Fri-Thu 9:30
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) Fri-Thu 11:50-3:25-6:55-10:25
Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-3-6:40
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:20-7-8-10:30
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:15-6:50-9:50
Last Night of the Proms (STC) Sat 11:30
Ponyo (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:45
Shorts (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:55
Sorority Row (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:35
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:05-6:45-9:45
The Ugly Truth (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:05-7:55-10:30
Whiteout (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4:15-7:15-10
WWE Breaking Point (STC) Sun 5

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

G-Force (G) Sat-Sun 1:30
G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (14A) Fri-Thu 9:50
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri-Thu 7

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Halloween II (18A) Fri-Thu 9:30
The Hangover (18A) Fri-Thu 9:40
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) Fri-Thu 4-6:50
Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (G) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 12-2:15-6:30 Mon-Thu 6:30
The Proposal (PG) Fri-Thu 4:20-8:25
Shorts (G) Sat-Sun 12-2:15
Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (14A) Fri 6:45 Sat-Sun 2-6:45 Mon-Thu 6:45
Up (G) Fri 4:45 Sat-Sun 12-4:45 Mon-Thu 4:45

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

9 (PG) Fri-Tue 1-3:10-5:15-7:25-9:30 Wed 3:10-5:15-7:25-9:30 Thu 1-3:10-5:15-7:25-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
All About Steve (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:50-4:20-7:05-9:35 Wed-Thu 1:50-4:20-7:05-9:35
Apni Boli Apna Des (Punjabi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:30-8
District 9 (18A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:40-7:30-10:15
The Final Destination 3D (18A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:05-5:10-7:35-9:50
G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (14A) Fri-Sat 1:20-4-6:50-9:40 Sun 1:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 1:20-4-6:50-9:40
Gamer (18A) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:15-6:55-9:25
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri-Thu 2:45-6:30-9:55
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-7:10:05
Sorority Row (18A) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:55-7:20-10
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:10-9:45
Whiteout (14A) Fri-Tue 1:40-4:25-7:15-10:10 Wed 4:25-7:15-10:10 Thu 1:40-4:25-7:15-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
WWE Breaking Point (STC) Sun 5

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

9 (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:25-3:45-6:55-9:25
All About Steve (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:55-4:35-7:10-9:45
District 9 (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:35-4:30-7:25-10:15
Extract (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 7:40-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:40-10
The Final Destination 3D (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2:05-4:40-7:35-10:10
G-Force (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:30-3:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:30-3:50
G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7:15-9:55
Gamer (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-4:15-7:30-9:35
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 3:10-6:45-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:15-4:35-8
Julie & Julia (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:25-6:50-9:40
Shorts (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:10
Sorority Row (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2:10-4:45-7:20-10:05
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 7:05-9:50
Whiteout (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:20-7-9:30
WWE Breaking Point (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 5

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criterontheatres.com

(500) Days of Summer (PG) Fri 7:10-9:10 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:10
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Highway, 604-531-7456, criterontheatres.com

District 9 (18A) Fri 7-9:10 Sat-Sun 2:10-7-9:10 Mon-Thu 7-9:10
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 2-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
Sorority Row (18A) Fri 7:20-9:25 Sat-Sun 2:30-7:20-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:25
Whiteout (14A) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:15 No Passes Sat-Sun 2:20-7:10-9:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-9:15

COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

(500) Days of Summer (PG) Fri 12:20-3:55-7:9:30 Sat 3:55-7:9:30 Sun 12:20-3:55-7:9:30 Mon-Thu 3:55-7:9:30
9 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:20-4:35-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:10-9:40
All About Steve (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4:15-7:20-10:10 No Passes Mon-Tue 4:15-7:20-10:10 Wed-Thu 4:15-7:20-10:10
District 9 (18A) Fri-Sat 12:15-12:45-3:40-4:05-6:55-7:35-9:50-10:25 Sun 12:15-12:45-4:05-7:35-9:50-10:25 Mon-Tue 3:40-4:05-6:55-7:35-9:50-10:25 Wed 3:40-4:05-6:55-7:35-9:50-10:25 Thu 3:40-4:05-6:55-7:35-9:50-10:25
Extract (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:45-7:05-10 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:05-10
The Final Destination 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 5-7:30-10:05
G-Force in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:25-4:40-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 4:40-7-9:35
G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-4:10-7:30-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:30-10:25
Gamer (18A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-7:40-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:40-7:40-10:30
Halloween II (18A) Fri-Thu 9:45
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sat 12-3:15-6:45-10:15 Sun 3:15-6:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:45-10:15
Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (G) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:45-6:45 Mon-Tue 3:45-6:45 Wed 6:45 Thu 3:45-6:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri-Sun 12-3:30-6-6:45-9:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:30-6-6:45-9:30-10:15
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:30-6:50-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:50-9:55
Last Night of the Proms (STC) Sat 11:30
Shorts (G) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:35 Mon-Thu 3:35
Sorority Row (18A) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:20-7:25-10 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:25-10
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05-4-7:05-10:15 Mon-Thu 4-7:05-10:15
The Ugly Truth (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:50-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:50-7:15-9:40
Whiteout (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:55-7:10-10:20 Mon-Tue 3:55-7:10-10:20 Wed 7:10-10:20 Thu 3:55-7:10-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
WWE Breaking Point (STC) Sun 5

TWILIGHT DRIVE-IN
260th Street & Fraser Highway, Langley, 604-856-5063

District 9 (18A) Fri 10:45 Sat 10 Sun-Thu 8
Grease 2 (STC) Fri 12:15
The Ugly Truth (14A) A.M. Fri 1 Sat 8 Sun-Thu 10:15

Billboard's top albums
1. I Look To You, Whitney Houston, right; **2.** Ready, Trey Songz; **3.** Time Of Our Lives, Miley Cyrus; **4.** Bang! Pow! Boom!, Insane Clown Posse; **5.** Breakthrough, Colbie Caillat. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

The common touch

Reba McEntire reflects on acting and music success

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
for Metro Canada

Reba McEntire is one of the biggest stars in country music. Records, tours, movies, Broadway shows and a popular TV series have made her wealthy beyond most people's imagination.

But she's never lost the common touch that made her so popular.

"As my sister says, 'Reba's just like everybody else,'" McEntire says in an interview from her Nashville home. "'She just happens to sing better than a few.'"

That common touch is felt all over the 13 tracks on Keep On Loving You, McEntire's first solo album in six years.

The current hit single, Consider Me Gone, is a plain talkin' girl power song with a simple message — treat me right or I'm outta here.

There's also Eight Crazy Hours (In the Story of Love) about a mom escaping to a cheap motel for a day to get away from an impending nervous breakdown.

"She can't cope with it anymore," McEntire, a native of Oklahoma, explains. "So she goes away by herself, deals with it and comes back, picks up a bucket of chicken, the kids from school and she's back at home ... I think everyone has those kind of days."

Reba McEntire is set to perform Sunday night at the Canadian Country Music Awards from GM Place.

McEntire is now 54 (a rare co-write on the album is called She's Turning 50 Today), her son is 19 and off to college, and she's raring to get back on the touring circuit again.

She's starting off gently, with an appearance Sunday night on the Canadian Country Music Awards, broadcast live from Vancouver's GM Place.

"Canada has always been very very good to me since the early '80s when we started touring up there," McEntire says.

In the new year, it's back to the big arenas, places McEntire ruled during the '80s and '90s.

McEntire admits that's a place she hasn't been for a while. Her career has been dominated most of the past few years by her successful TV sitcom, Reba, which ran for six seasons before being suddenly cancelled in 2007. She also starred in a successful Broadway run of Annie Get Your Gun.

McEntire, who never trained as an actor, says she's hoping for another shot at TV.

"It's on reruns four times a day seven days a week," she says about her show. "So a lot of people don't even know that we stopped filming."

CCMAs

When: Sunday on CBC
Host: Jason Priestley
Performers: Reba McEntire, Martina McBride, Terri Clark, George Canyon, Crystal Shawanda, Richard Marx, Doc Walker, Jessie Farrell, Aaron Pritchett, Emerson Drive, Johnny Reid, Gord Bamford, Paul Brandt, Jann Arden, Victoria Banks, Dean Brody, Tara Oram.
Leading nominees: Johnny Reid (six), George Canyon (five), Victoria Banks (five), Dean Brody and Gord Bamford (four).

The British obsession

SoundCheck
Alan Cross
metronews.ca/soundcheck

During a frantic 35-hour music mission to the U.K. last weekend, I stole some time to do some record shopping: Oxford Street (the flagship HMV), Berwick Street (Sister Ray and a few others) and in the East End (Rough Trade on Brick Lane). Everywhere I went, I thought the same thing: God, the British love music. I'll even go so far as to say that Britons may love rock and pop more than any other nation on the planet.

All the record stores I visited were filled with so many CDs, vinyl records, DVDs, books, magazines and t-shirts that I became disoriented. The aisles were crammed with people actually buying things. The line at the HMV checkout snaked around itself three times. Meanwhile, back in the stacks, strangers debated and argued with each other while simultaneously offering recommendations and suggestions.

How can a nation of 60 million people support so many excellent music magazines? Q, Mojo, Record Collector, Kerrang, Uncut, Word, Classic Rock, the NME — the list goes on. Canada, even with our fierce musical nationalism, can't support even one printed music mag.

There are the endless summer festivals (Glastonbury, Leeds, Reading, T in the Park, V-Fest, Bestival, Latitude, Download and more). The BBC remains a powerful and popular musical force. And while they support music made by their own, the British often embrace foreign bands before they find any love at home (Pixies, Nirvana, The Killers, Kings of Leon, Gossip.)

Why are the people of this rainy island in the North Atlantic so passionate about music? Could it be the tradition of the arts that extends back beyond Chaucer? Maybe it's because so many people are packed onto such a small island. It might be the class system where music has long offered the promise of escape from dreary council estates. There's the British art school system where creative types can park themselves for a few years after high school. Or maybe as the nation that gave the world The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin, the British just get it more than we do.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

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vanadminintern@metronews.ca Application Deadline: September 11, 2009

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Artist Bio - Hey Ocean

Hit Songs
A Song About California

What's better than seeing your favourite band live? Not much. Well Ashleigh Ball, David Beckingham, and David Veretesi agree with you. The trio makes up Vancouver band Hey Ocean and tour as much as possible; live shows are an integral part of the band's dynamic. They released successful albums in 2007 and 2008 on their own label, **Pop Machine.** Singles such as *A Song About California* climbed the charts making Hey Ocean one of Canada's brightest stars. Catch Hey Ocean at the Chan Centre September 17.

Have a listen!
Join the Evolution Revolution
Evolution1079.com
Evolution 107.9 CHBE Altering Radio

Rave reviews for Ellen

Ellen DeGeneres is already receiving a rave review from the judges' panel at America's Got Talent after the announcement she'd be Paula Abdul's replacement on American Idol. **PEOPLE.COM**

Television

Comedian/actor Russell Brand hosts the MTV Video Music Awards once again this year. Performers include Lady Gaga and Jay-Z.

Brand humour is back

Controversial comedian set to host MTV's VMAs again

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

"I didn't think I'd do it after last year but I am," shrugs lascivious comedian, actor and self-proclaimed S&M Willy Wonka Russell Brand regarding his hosting of this year's MTV Video Music Awards, airing live from New York's Radio City Music Hall this Sunday.

"(The producers) did say straight after, 'Do you want to do it next year,' and I went, 'Yeah, alright. I sort of agreed immediately after."

Brand's reappearance as VMAs master of ceremonies is a shock not only to the masses but to the 34 year-old Brit himself. While overseeing the event last year, his controversial quips about the likes of then-president George W. Bush, Britney Spears and cherubic musicians The Jonas Brothers garnered everything from guffaws to dropped jaws and even death threats.

The VMAs will air on MuchMusic this Sunday night

Regardless, ratings shot up like a rocket. The vaguely familiar comic became an instant hit for both his humour and ability to wrangle 'em in via lambasting key Americana figures and causing quite the embroilment.

"It doesn't take much, does it? Bloody hell," he grunts. "I was saying things that were completely daft. There were some good things in there too but it's all just jokes. I'm only mucking about. These are not serious views; I'm not trying to push this through Parliament. But this year, they haven't said anything is taboo…just the usual stuff like not getting people to march onto the street and overthrow the government or promote Communism."

Brand's presence this year is already causing a whirlwind of activity. Who will he jab? Where will he stop? At that, while last year's roster of VMA talent and presenters seemed loaded with prime targets for one-offs, this event proves to be a barrel full of fish for a comic of his disposition: performances by the likes of Jay-Z, Lady Gaga, Beyoncé, Green Day and Pink as well as awards presentations by Katy Perry, Ne-Yo, Nelly Furtado and Chace Crawford beg for more of his randy wit. So, who exactly is Brand looking to poke fun at?

"If you drop the words 'fun' and 'at,' then Lady Gaga," he admits. "I've got more than words for her. I'm rather interested in that individual. Overall though, it doesn't do to get negative about people. It ends up making you feel bad. I just think: 'They're all just people who were born and they're gonna die. So just be nice to 'em.'"

Call it the Brand adaptation of the ages old stage fright cure: viewing your audience as in their underwear?

"Yeah. See them as babies. Then…corpses."

FRIDAY 9/11/09 primetime

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
news	251	308	3 CBC	Fortune	Jeopardy!	Diverted (2009) Shawn Ashmore, David Suchet. (CC) (DVS)				CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour
news	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Ghost Whisperer (CC)		Medium (CC)		Defying Gravity (N) (CC)		CTV News
news	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Currents: Warrior Boyz		Glee "Showmance" (CC)		NUMB3RS "Greatest Hits"		News
news	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	TMZ (N)	Supernanny "Sachs Family"		Funniest Home Videos		Comedy Now	Comedy Inc.	A News (N)
news	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Mantracker (CC) (DVS)		Ugly Betty "The Fall Issue"		Out There	Out There	The CityNews
news	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	The Vampire Diaries "Pilot"		Melrose Place "Pilot" (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
news	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Ghost Whisperer (CC)		Medium (CC)		NUMB3RS "Greatest Hits"		KIRO News
news	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Southland "Derailed" (CC)		Dateline NBC (CC)				KING 5 News
news	288	380	21 ABC	Fortune	Jeopardy!	Supernanny "Sachs Family"		Ugly Betty "The Fall Issue"		20/20 (Season Premiere) (N)		News
news	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Glee "Showmance" (CC)		News	Most Wanted	Family Guy
news	502	390	26 NW	Conspiracy Files (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Conspiracy Files (CC)		National
news	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Red Bull: Air Race (Live)		The Pen	MMA Conn	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
sports	400	400	30 TSN	CFL Football Calgary Stampeders at Edmonton Eskimos. (Subject to Blackout) (CC)						SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		SportsCentre
family	552	543	29 YTV	iCarly (CC)		iCarly "iGo to Japan" (CC)			Sorry	Family Biz	That's-Weird	Adrenaline
family	555	545	50 TEL	Batman	Spider-Man	Wolverine	Justice	Futurama	King of Hill	Wonder Woman (2009, Action) Premiere.		
family	268	354	5 KNO	The True Intrepid (CC)		Poirot "Double Sin" (CC)		New Tricks (CC)		Twist Rock 'n' roll dance. (CC)		
variety	575	583	20 CMT	Garth Brooks: Kansas City Concert (CC)			Flashback	Liar Liar ★★ (1997, Comedy) Jim Carrey, Maura Tierney.				Liar Liar ★★
variety	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: Miami (CC)		Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
variety	521	560	32 TLC	Making Over America		Dress	Dress	Making Over America		Dress	Dress	Dress
variety	616	522	35 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		Howie Do It (CC)		Kenny	Kenny	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Rent
variety	294	650	47 TBS	(6:00) The Holiday ★★ (2006) (CC)			Sex-and-City	Sex-and-City		(:45) I Spy ★★ (2002, Comedy) (PA) Eddie Murphy. (CC)		
variety	603	561	59 FN	Diners	Diners	Ramsay's Kitchen		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diners
variety	-	-	54 AMC	(5:00) GoodFellas ★★★★		The Return of the Living Dead ★★ (1985) Clu Gulager.				The Fly ★★★ (1986) Jeff Goldblum. (CC)		
variety	320	621	30 CEN	(6:15) Ace of Hearts (2008)		Cadillac Records ★★★ (2008) Adrien Brody. Premiere.				Across the Universe ★★ (2007) (CC)		
variety	581	566	161 MTV	True Love	The X Effect	Made "Kickboxer" (CC)		Beatdown	Pranked	True Love	The X Effect	Made (CC)

SATURDAY 9/12/09 primetime

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
news	251	308	3 CBC	The Nature of Things (CC)		Equestrian BMO Nations Cup. (Same-day Tape) (CC)				News	Intelligence (CC) (DVS)	
news	250	321	9 CTV	W-FIVE-S&M: Short & Male		The Vampire Diaries "Pilot"		Law & Order "Skate or Die"		Law & Order: SVU		CTV News
news	252	336	11 GTV	Doc (CC)		Mental "Manic at the Disco"		Absolution (2006, Drama) Samantha Mathis. Premiere. (CC)				News Final
news	256	389	12 VI	New Canoe	Island Week	The Road to Avonlea		Kool Countdown (CC)		Whistler "Homecoming"		Bravo! Fact
news	253	359	13 CITY	Murdoch Mysteries		Model Search (CC)		Zacharia Farted (1998) Colin Cunningham. (CC) (DVS)				Amazing
news	-	-	14 CW	CSI: NY "Fare Game" (CC)		Operation Smile		Boston Legal (CC)		CSI: NY "Cool Hunter"		CSI: Miami
news	289	381	15 CBS	News	Fall Preview	Entertainment Tonight (N)		7 Profiles		48 Hours Mystery "Toxic"		News
news	287	379	16 NBC	Backroads	Inside Edition	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order "Skate or Die"		Law & Order: SVU		KING 5 News
news	288	380	21 ABC	NASCAR Racing: Sprint Cup			Fortune	Around the World in 80 Days ★★ (2004) Jackie Chan.				News
news	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Cops (CC)	Cops (N) (PA)	America's Most Wanted		News	Most Wanted	Talkshow
news	502	390	26 NW	This Beat Goes On (CC)		National	Our World	National	Mansbridge	This Beat Goes On (CC)		National
news	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Newsroom
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		English Premier League Soccer: Man City vs. Arsenal				Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Poker
sports	400	400	30 TSN	NASCAR Racing: Sprint Cup			SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		WEC WrekCage (CC)		Planet Speed	SportsCentre
family	552	543	29 YTV	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Funniest Home Videos		Smallville (CC)		Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
family	555	545	50 TEL	Scooby-Doo! and the Samurai Sword (2009)			Johnny Test	Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Venture Bros.	Moral Orel (N)
family	268	354	5 KNO	National Geographic		Heartbeat "Bully Boys"		Midsomer Murders A photographer is found dead. (CC)				Jazz
variety	575	583	20 CMT	Revival		The Bodyguard ★★ (1992, Drama) Kevin Costner, Whitney Houston, Gary Kemp.						Message
variety	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami (CC)		The Sopranos (CC)		CSI: Miami "Broken Home"		CSI: Miami "Rush" (CC)		CSI: Miami
variety	521	560	32 TLC	Moving Up (N) (CC)		Little Couple	Little Couple	Ultimate Cake Off (CC)		Moving Up (CC)		Little Couple
variety	616	522	35 SHO	The Guard (CC)		A Decent Proposal (2007) Jessica Tuck, Andrew Airlie. (CC)				Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer		
variety	294	650	47 TBS	Ace Ventura: Pet Detective ★★ (1994) Jim Carrey. (CC)				Bill Engvall	Bill Engvall	Yours, Mine & Ours ★★ (2005) (CC)		
variety	603	561	59 FN	Top Chef: Las Vegas (CC)		Hell's Kitchen (CC)		Challenge "Extreme Cakes"		Chopped (CC)		Top Chef
variety	-	-	54 AMC	Lethal Wpn 2	Lethal Weapon 3 ★★★ (1992) Mel Gibson, Danny Glover. Premiere. (CC)					Blown Away ★★ (1994) Jeff Bridges. (CC)		
variety	320	621	30 CEN	(6:10) Cassandra's Dream		The Reader ★★★ (2008) Kate Winslet. Premiere. (CC)				(:15) Atonement ★★★ (2007, Drama) (CC)		
variety	581	566	161 MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	MTV Live	MTV News	After

SUNDAY 9/13/09 primetime

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
news	251	308	3 CBC	Heartland "Full Circle"		Canadian Country Music Awards (N) (CC)				National	Politicians	News
news	250	321	9 CTV	Gary Unmarr	Gary Unmarr	The Good Times Are Killing Me (2009) Kelly Rowan.				Criminal Minds (CC)		CTV News
news	252	336	11 GTV	16:9 Picture	Family Guy	(:01) Big Brother 11 (N)		2009 Canada's Walk of Fame (N) (CC)				News Final
news	256	389	12 VI	Funniest Home Videos		Monk "Mr. Monk on Wheels"		Grey's Anatomy (CC)				New Canoe
news	253	359	13 CITY	TO Show	Tomorrow Never Dies ★★★ (1997) Pierce Brosnan, Jonathan Pryce. (CC)					Conviction Kitchen (CC)		Amazing
news	-	-	14 CW	(6:00) Benny and Joon		The Vampire Diaries "Pilot"		Melrose Place "Pilot" (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cold Case
news	289	381	15 CBS	60 Minutes (CC)		(:01) Big Brother 11 (N)		Neighborhood		Neighborhood		News
news	287	379	16 NBC	NFL Football: Bears at Packers			The Jim Mora	Dateline NBC (CC)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		KING 5 News
news	288	380	21 ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Shark Tank (N) (CC)		Defying Gravity (N) (CC)		News
news	290	382	23 FOX	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		King of the Hill (CC)		Family Guy	Amer Dad	News	Sports	House (CC)
news	502	390	26 NW	102 Minutes That Changed The World (N) (CC)				National	Politicians	102 Minutes That Changed The World		
news	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		State of the Union		Union
sports	407	419	22 RSP	MLB Baseball Teams TBA.		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Air Racing		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
sports	400	400	30 TSN	NFL Football: Bears at Packers			SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		NASCAR Racing		Motoring	SportsCentre
family	552	543	29 YTV	Gym Teacher: The Movie		OddParents	H2O Just	In Real Life (CC)		Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
family	555	545	50 TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	Majority	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	Bromwell	Rick & Steve	John
family	268	354	5 KNO	Inside Mecca		Inspector Morse: Deadly Slumber (CC)				New Tricks (CC)		Jazz
variety	575	583	20 CMT	Jim	Jim	Jim	Jim	Jim	Jim	Jim	Jim	Jim
variety	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: Miami "CSI: My Nanny"		Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
variety	521	560	32 TLC	Child Frozen in Time (CC)		Growing Up Tiny: Kenadie		Marlie's New Face		Child Frozen in Time (CC)		Small
variety	616	522	35 SHO	ReGenesis "Spare Parts"		The Unquiet (2007) Cara Buono, Don S. Davis. (CC)				Weeds (CC)	Found.	Kenny
variety	294	650	47 TBS	Catch Me	(:40) Catch Me if You Can ★★★ (2002) Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks. (CC)							(:40) Something's Gotta Give
variety	603	561	59 FN	Dinner: Impossible (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Get on Plate	Food	Iron Chef America (CC)		Dinner
variety	-	-	54 AMC	Mad Men "The Fog" (N)		(:02) Mad Men "The Fog"		(:03) Breaking Bad (CC)		Mad Men "The Fog" (CC)		Iron Eagle
variety	320	621	30 CEN	(6:25) Bee Movie ★★ (2007)		Leatherheads ★★ (2008) George Clooney. (CC)				Mad Money ★★ (2008) Diane Keaton. (CC)		
variety	581	566	161 MTV	MTV Live	MTV News	After	MTV News	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	MTV News

Weeds takes a dangerous path

NEW SEASON Playing a pot dealer on TV, you assume Justin Kirk must frequently get asked his opinion on the social and political issues of the marijuana debate.

Well, not really...

"Oh it comes up," laughs Kirk, who plays Andy Botwin on Weeds, which begins its fifth season on Showcase Sept. 13.

"But the discussion goes more like — hey man, wanna smoke? Yes, I'll smoke with you."

Not that the quirky Weeds takes its title topic completely lightly. The show — which focuses on the misadventures of suburban mom-turned-dealer Nancy (Mary-Louise Parker) and her extended family — never quite gets away from the darker ramifications of the dope business.

Though its central characters are pretty likable, their experiences in the weed business are not always positive. "Well, it's not a public service announcement," says Kirk who, besides Weeds, is best known for his work on the miniseries Angels In America.

Kirk says the new season will take the show on a much more dangerous path as a pregnant Nancy finds herself involved with ruthless Tijuana mayor/drug lord Reyes (Demian Bichir), who also happens to be the father of her child. Reyes can't quite decide if, or when, he should kill Nancy.

"We're going way beyond where we've been. We're going from selling dime bags to getting involved with a very dangerous drug kingpin."

IAN JOHNSTON/FOR METRO CANADA

New season

- The fifth season of Weeds begins Sunday night on Showcase.

Mayer not with Hills star
John Mayer wants to stress that he hasn't hooked up with Hills hottie Kristin Cavallari. In a series of silly Twitter posts, the singer, 31, debunked Internet gossip. USMAGAZINE.COM

Going Out

Mix of Six

Fringe Festival
Various venues
Opening weekend
The 25th Vancouver International Fringe Festival features 68 productions in 471 performances spread over 11 days. Info and tix: vancouverfringe.com.

Black Comedy
Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, 2750 Granville
Opening weekend
A struggling artist wants to impress his fiancée's visiting father, so he dim-wittedly breaks into a neighbour's flat and "borrows" the fancy furniture. Tix: $25-$59. Info: artsclub.com.

Vancouver Theatresports League
Granville Island
Ongoing
The best of improv comedy in various laugh-inspiring scenarios including improvivor, late night mixer and classic theatersports. Audience suggestions are always part of the fun. Tix: $6-$19. Info: vtsl.com.

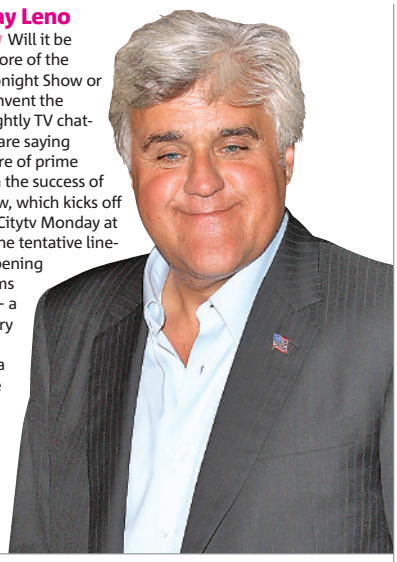
Great Big Sea
Malkin Bowl
Friday-Saturday
Newfoundland folk-rockers play Stanley Park this weekend to promote songs from their latest CD, Fortune's Favour. Tix: $37.50-52.50. Info: livenation.com.

Summer Sessions
Ambleside Park, West Van
Saturday
Music heavyweights Sarah McLachlan, Neil Young and Sheryl Crow perform a benefit concert in West Van to benefit the Sarah MacLachlan foundation, which provides free music programs to youth. Tis: $89-$139.

Canadian Country Music Awards
GM Place
Sunday
Canada's top country music stars, including Reba McEntire, Martina McBride, Aaron Pritchett and many others will be at The Garage this weekend to honour their best in a ceremony hosted by Jason Priestley.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Jay Leno



TV Will it be more of the Tonight Show or will Leno reinvent the wheel for nightly TV chatter? Pundits are saying that the future of prime time rests on the success of the new show, which kicks off on NBC and Citytv Monday at 10 p.m. ET. The tentative lineup for the opening episode seems impressive — a chat with Jerry Seinfeld followed by a performance by Rihanna, Jay-Z and Kanye West.

2 The 2009 MTV Video Music Awards
SHOW MTV is no longer the arbiter of culture it used to be but you can count on the music/reality show channel to put up quite the spectacle. British funnyman Russell Brand returns as host and Janet Jackson is scheduled to open the show with a tribute to his departed brother. Viewers will also get a first peek at the trailer for the Michael Jackson documentary This Is It. The Awards airs Sunday on MuchMusic at 9 p.m. ET.

3 Mi Plan: Nelly Furtado
ALBUM Her plan worked all right. The Portuguese-Canadian songstress not only pulled off an entire album in Spanish but made history last week when she became the first North American artist to land a No. 1 spot on the Latin pop charts with an original Spanish song — Manos Al Aire. Mi Plan's out Tuesday.

4 Monsters of Folk
BAND You could call them the new CSNY. Indie stalwarts M. Ward, Jim James (of My Morning Jacket), Conor Oberst (of Bright Eyes) and Mike Mogis have joined forces and are getting ready to launch a tour and their first album. Hipster hysteria, fanned by a series of teaser videos, has already reached fever pitch.

5 The Lost Symbol: Dan Brown
BOOK Literary blockbusters don't get bigger than this. Brown's fifth novel will touch down bookstores Tuesday and we can already hear the rumble of cash registers. Advance orders have made it a top seller on many booklists, backed by a Twitter campaign that pumped out clues and trivia about the author of The Da Vinci Code.

6 America's Got Talent Finalists
PEOPLE It's down to the last five, including: A contorting breakdancer from Oregon, an opera singer from Texas, a percussive quartet from New Hampshire, a baritone singer from California and a singer-guitarist from Maryland.

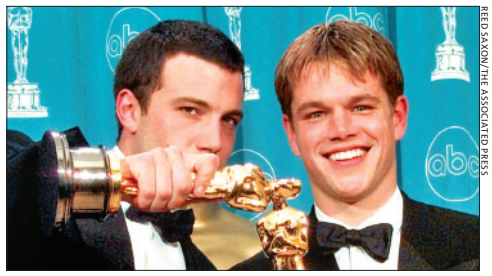
7 iTunes LP
TECH For those who lament the death of the album in the MP3 era, there's good news ... well, sort of. Apple's music download site will now have a new LP feature, which will allow people to access liner notes, artwork, lyrics and other music paraphernalia when they purchase an entire album.

Watching Sellevision

NBC has partnered with Bryan Singer and Pushing Daisies' Bryan Fuller to adapt Augusten Burroughs' Sellevision into a series. The one-hour dramedy will focus on the inner workings of a fictional home shopping network. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

Oscars: Double or nothing?



REED SAXON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ben Affleck and Matt Damon display their Oscars in 1998.

You would think doubling a film's chances for an Academy Award nomination would thrill everyone in Hollywood, where an Oscar is the highest form of ego-stroking in a town of big egos.

Yet attitudes among stars, filmmakers and executives range from cautious optimism to harsh disagreement over the big change at next March's Oscars: 10 best-picture nominees instead of the usual five.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is experimenting with the expanded slate as Oscar organizers hope to stoke more interest in the awards show and spread the prestige around to different kinds of films.

It's not without precedent. From 1931 to 1943, the academy generally had 10 best-picture contenders, and as many as 12 some years.

Since then, though, it's been only five. Many in Hollywood wonder if doubling the field will cheapen the honour of scoring a nomination for the biggest prize in show business.

"I think it's terrible. My knee-jerk reaction is that it's a really bad idea. We'll see, but I think 10 just dilutes it too much," said Matt Damon, an Oscar winner for the Good Will Hunting screenplay he wrote with Ben Affleck.

This month's Toronto, Venice and Telluride fests traditionally mark the start of awards season, as studios begin trotting out their big guns for the Oscars.

"I hope it doesn't devalue the nomination. Because to be nominated for best film is obviously an incredible honour," said Peter Jackson, whose The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King swept the 2003 Oscars.

The switch to 10 nominees mainly springs from Oscar planners' efforts to popularize the show amid generally declining TV ratings over the last 25 years, as smaller, sober dramas have come to dominate instead of big studio productions.

Lighter films occasionally sneak in — the road-trip romp Little Miss Sunshine or the pregnancy comedy Juno. Yet the best-picture lineup most often fills up with broody films such as last year's The Reader, Frost/Nixon and Milk — critical but not commercial triumphs.

"It used to be actually that very big box-office movies tended to be the ones that win," said Chris Weitz, director of this fall's vampire sequel The Twilight Saga: New Moon and a 2002 Oscar nominee for the About a Boy screenplay. "Studios are now spending money on things they see as giant blockbusters rather than necessarily spending a lot of money on big historical epics that might do well at the Oscars."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Carrie's bling
Sarah Jessica Parker wears a Solange Azagury-Partridge necklace worth almost $200,000 US on the set of the new Sex And The City movie, femalefirst.co.uk reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Eddie's other, other woman?

GETTING AROUND Eddie Cibrian has been exposed as a serial cheater by a model who says he was dating behind her behind his wife's and mistress Leann Rimes' backs, femalefirst.co.uk alleges.

Scheana Marie Jancan has sensationally claimed she was part of a love square, which ended the TV star's marriage to Brandi Glanville — and she's still in shock about the whole thing, the website reports.

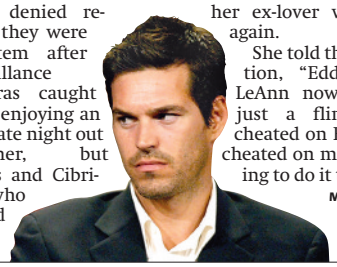
Jancan tells Life & Style magazine she and Cibrian were romantically involved for three years during his marriage, but she had no idea he was cheating on her with country star and actress Rimes.

Rimes and Cibrian initially denied reports they were an item after surveillance cameras caught them enjoying an intimate night out together, but Rimes and Cibrian, who played lovers on TV movie Northern Lights, have since ended their marriages and gone public with their romance.

A jilted Jancan has warned Rimes to be careful — because she's sure her ex-lover will cheat again.

She told the publication, "Eddie's with LeAnn now, but it's just a fling. Eddie cheated on Brandi. He cheated on me. He's going to do it to LeAnn."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Celebrity tweets

Tyra Banks tries to bluff her way through a fashion faux pas, British actor Stephen Fry gets technical about his claims he made, John Mayer has some advice for women he meets at clubs, and Tila Tequila keeps her fans updated on her alleged assault case.

• @tyrabanks leaving the house with strapless jumpsuit on with bra straps showing trying to pass it off as fashionable! trend alert! ha!

• @stephenfry When I promised to eat 40 hats if you weren't enchanted by "Sum", I hope were aware that "hat" means "cashew nut" in a rare Papuan dialect.

• @johncmayer Rule of law: if you tell me within two minutes of meeting me that you are "real," you are in fact not. But neat dress.

• @officialTila Wish me luck guys! Im going 2 San Diego tomorrow 2 speak w/the DA! Choking me is NOT OK

METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

Katherine adopting

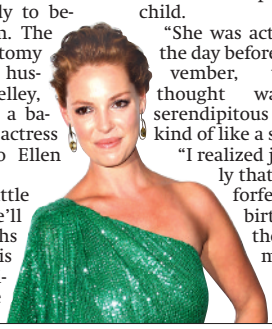
MOTHERHOOD Katherine Heigl is ready to become a mom. The Grey's Anatomy star and her husband, Josh Kelley, are adopting a baby girl, the actress confirmed to Ellen DeGeneres.

"It is a little girl and she'll be 10 months at the end this month," Heigl said of the Korean-born special needs child.

"She was actually born the day before me in November, which I thought was really serendipitous and just kind of like a sign.

"I realized just recently that I basically forfeited my birthday for the rest of my life."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Hugh finalizes divorce

A SINGLE MAN AGAIN! After separating 11 years ago, Hugh Hefner and his wife, former Playmate Kimberley Conrad, are finally getting a divorce. Hefner filed in L.A. recently, citing irreconcilable differences, according to media reports.

"I am happy to be out of the marriage," Hefner said. "I only remained married for the sake of the children, at her request. I am happy to have this behind me."

Since their split, Conrad and the two sons she had with Hefner have lived next door to his famous Playboy mansion.

Hefner wants Conrad's spousal support to be set at $20,000 US a month, insisting he's already given her nearly $12 million since their separation.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Charlie the conspiracy theorist

IDEAS Actor Charlie Sheen is known nowadays for his funny bone on TV show Two and a Half Men, but off-screen, Sheen's got a serious bone to pick with 9/11 and what most people think was behind it, popeater.com reports.

So much, in fact, that he's demanding a meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama to discuss his views. Sheen, who believes that the Sept. 11 terror attacks were carried out by the U.S. government, gave an interview to prisonplanet.com in the form of a fictional conversation he'd like to have with Obama.

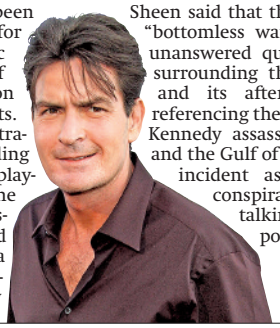
In it, Sheen — a self-proclaimed 9/11 Truther, a conspiracy theory group that doubts official reports on the terrorist attacks — declared that "the official 9/11 story is a fraud."

"9/11 has been the pretext for the systematic dismantling of our Constitution and Bill of Rights. Your administration is reading from the same playbook that the Bush administration foisted on America through documented secrecy and deception."

He went on to say that former U.S. president George Bush used the attacks as a way to create a war with Iraq.

In the "interview," Sheen said that there's a "bottomless warren of unanswered questions surrounding that day and its aftermath," referencing the John F. Kennedy assassination and the Gulf of Tonkin incident as other conspiracy talking points.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lindsay after Mischa's job?

WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS Looks like Lindsay Lohan's job hunting may have endangered her friendship with Mischa Barton.

Sources on the set of Barton's new series, The Beautiful Life, claim that when Barton's hospitalization in July threatened to derail filming, Lohan got in touch with producers to let them know she was more than willing to take Barton's place, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Ex's rebound opens old wounds

DEEPLY HURT Jessica Simpson is reportedly "devastated" that ex Tony Romo is now dating Candice Crawford, actor Chace Crawford's sister, according to Hollyscoop.

"She doesn't want Tony back, but no one wants to see that their ex has moved on with a hot, younger girl ... She's pretty insecure about herself."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Cut the boob talk, Victoria requests

MODESTY When pressed by Elle magazine about rumours she had had her breasts reduced, Victoria Beckham said, "We should just not talk about each other's boobs."

One thing she will talk about is dealing with husband David Beckham's long absences due to his work schedule. "I felt like someone had chopped my arm off ... Everything we do, we do together. I very rarely go out on my own, unless it's a work commitment," she said.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Big changes as Matt preps for new baby

FATHERHOOD Matthew McConaughey admits that having a family has meant making some changes around the house.

"We had to super child proof the new house," the actor wrote on his MySpace blog.

He and girlfriend Camila Alves are getting ready to welcome a younger sibling for 14-month-old son Levi, who McConaughey admits is already a handful on his own.

"He's motoring around like Usain Bolt," McConaughey added. "We call him the fruit bandit 'cause if there's fruit out, he's on it, takin' it and eatin' it. He's gettin' bigger, more fun, smarter and craftier by the day."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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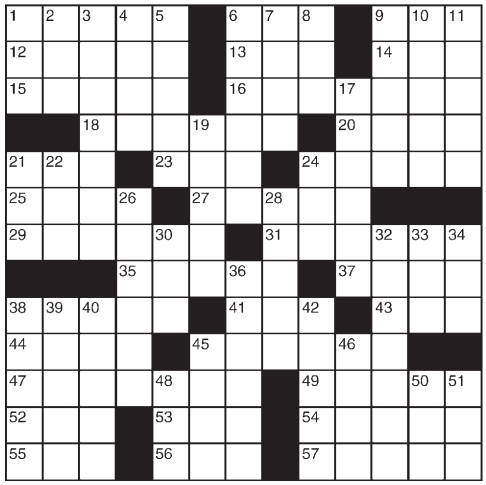

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		2	6		8			
	6					1	9	
5	1				2	8		
2		4	1				3	
				3				
	3				7	5		9
		9	2				6	5
	8	7					2	
			3		9	4		

ACROSS

1 Thespian
6 "Birth — Nation"
9 Edwards or Andrews (Abbr.)
12 Commercial for a TV show
13 Bribe
14 Grazing land
15 Mature
16 Lightweight outerwear
18 "For sure"
20 Emcee
21 "Eureka!"
23 Eventual aves
24 Big and strong
25 Bull's-eye hitter
27 Standish stand-in
29 "Sophie's Choice" author
31 Boxing combination
35 English homework, perhaps
37 Luke's mentor
38 Perhaps
41 Sleep phenom
43 Calif. hours
44 Garfield's pal
45 "Raging Bull" star
47 Kewpie doll feature
49 Jordanian money
52 Raw rock
53 Blond shade
54 Fashion
55 In medias —
56 Pod dweller
57 Entice

DOWN

1 Spring mo.
2 Dernier —
3 Botanical sculpture
4 Portent
5 Sonata movement
6 Bony
7 Comestibles
8 Software program
9 Unfriendly
10 Banquet
11 Cuckoo
17 Biden predecessor
19 Country singer Sara
21 Billboards
22 Chapeau
24 Coop occupant
26 Man with all the answers?
28 Senior member
30 Sugar suffix
32 Place name
33 Sentence pts.
34 Feedbag morsel
36 "Queen of Soul"
38 Engine
39 Worship
40 "Holy smoke!"
42 Central part
45 Rx measure
46 Ceremony
48 Siesta
50 Jungfrau, for one
51 On pension (Abbr.)

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

S	L	E	D	■	E	B	B	■	G	E	N	E		
T	I	M	E	■	X	I	I	■	O	X	E	N		
A	S	I	F	■	C	O	L	■	S	P	E	D		
G	A	T	E	A	U	■	L	A	S	E	R	S		
■	■	■	A	S	S	■	■	T	I	L	■	■		
A	B	E	T	■	E	X	E	M	P	L	A	R		
P	O	X	■	■	M	E	X	■	■	E	D	O		
E	X	P	O	N	E	N	T	■	E	D	D	Y		
■	■	L	I	E	■	■	E	M	S	■	■	■		
I	S	O	L	D	E	■	R	E	C	A	L	L		
F	A	R	M	■	L	E	I	■	O	H	I	O		
F	R	E	E	■	A	G	O	■	R	O	M	P		
Y	A	R	N	■	N	O	R	■	T	Y	P	E		

2	7	9	5	1	4	8	6	3
6	1	4	8	3	9	7	2	5
3	5	8	6	2	7	1	4	9
9	6	1	4	8	2	5	3	7
8	4	3	7	6	5	9	1	2
7	2	5	3	9	1	6	8	4
5	3	6	9	4	8	2	7	1
4	9	2	1	7	6	3	5	8
1	8	7	2	5	3	4	9	6

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

SARAH POMPER

Ginger Garlic Chicken Stir Fry

Submitted by Alison Glasbergen, Victoria, B.C.

INGREDIENTS:
1 cup Jasmine rice
2 cups water

FOR MARINADE:
2 garlic cloves, crushed
3 inch piece of ginger, peeled and grated
1 tbsp soy sauce
2 tsp sesame oil

FOR STIR FRY:
1 tbsp vegetable oil
2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, sliced into strips (or 4 boneless, skinless chicken thighs)
1-2 carrots, sliced
1 small head of broccoli, cut into bite-size florets
1 small package sugar snap peas, ends removed
4-5 mushrooms, sliced
1/2 green pepper, chunked
(other vegetables can be substituted or added)

METHOD:
1. Cook Jasmine rice according to package directions. Meanwhile, combine ingredients for marinade in a medium bowl.
2. Add sliced chicken, stir to combine and set aside while preparing vegetables.
3. Heat vegetable oil in large frying pan, add chicken, and stir-fry until chicken is no longer pink (about 2 minutes). Remove chicken from frying pan to a separate dish and keep warm in the oven.
4. Add a bit more oil to pan and add chopped vegetables, reserving mushrooms, and stir-fry for about 4-5 minutes.
5. Add mushrooms and continue stir-frying for another 3 minutes. Add a few drops of water to help vegetables steam cook when stir-frying.
6. When vegetables are crisp tender, add chicken and stir to combine (if desired, add a splash or two of soy sauce, then stir).
7. Serve with rice. Enjoy!

SERVES 2
PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 15 MINUTES

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You are about to discover what has really been going on behind the scenes. Chances are it won't be as bad as you feared.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
With Pluto, planet of power, now coming to the end of its retrograde phase your energy will soon return.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Today's cosmic alignment will bring you into conflict with some of the people you care most about in the world.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Pressures have been building up around you for a long time now and at some stage today they will become almost unbearable.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You can be astonishingly stubborn at times and chances are you won't give way on anything today, no matter how small or inconsequential.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
No amount of discussion is going to win others round to your way of thinking, so all you can do is fight for what you believe.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You should know by now that different people see things in different ways and if you accept that fact you won't have too many problems.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Keep a sense of perspective today, especially where money matters and business issues are concerned.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You may be feeling assertive and ambitious today but don't push it too far or you could turn people against you.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
As Pluto, planet of transformation, turns direct in your sign you will be asking yourself some serious questions, like "What does it all mean?"

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You may be tempted to go back on a promise but if you do you will regret it by the end of the month.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Something will happen today that shocks you, but looking back you will realize that you should have seen it coming.

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Low-in-fat "Giant" actor James (1)
2. Singer Stewart's silent assents (1)
3. Repulsive fashion or way of doing (1)
4. Monastery or convent personal journal (3)
5. Put a tiara on cartoon Huckleberry (1)
6. Warbucks ward's nanas or knot types (2)
7. Boat captain's bedroom footwear (2)

ANSWERS
1. LEAN DEAN 2. RODS NODS 3. VILE STYLE 4. PRIORY DIARY 5. CROWNED HOUND 6. ANNIES GRANNIES 7. SKIPPERS SLIPPERS

9-11-09

This day in history

SEPT. 11, 1926: An assassination attempt on Benito Mussolini fails.
SEPT. 11, 1961: Foundation of the World Wildlife Fund.
SEPT. 11, 1973: A CIA-backed coup in Chile headed by General Augusto Pinochet topples the democratically elected President Salvador Allende. Pinochet remains in power for almost 17 years.
SEPT. 11, 2001: The September 11 attacks take place in the United States. Airplane hijackings result in the collapse of the World Trade Center in New York City, destruction of the western portion of The Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and a passenger airliner crash in Shanksville, Penn.

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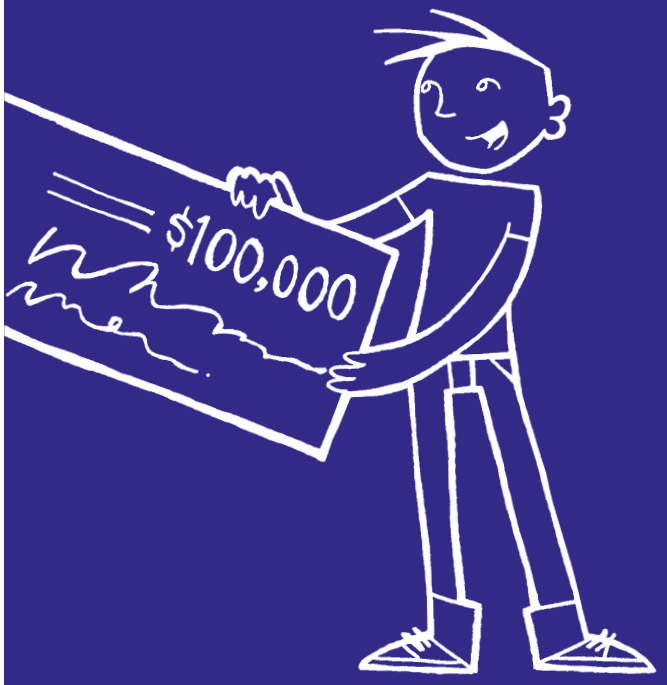

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one for you*

And $100,000 for the charity of your choice.‡

Plus, over 200 other prizes to give!

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 3 nights 3.5-star central accom just steps away from the Old Quebec City.

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 4 nights 3.5-star central accom in one of the oldest cities in North America.

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4 NIGHTS
FROM **$299**
+ taxes & fees $110
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 4 nights 3-star accom on the Las Vegas Strip.
UPGRADE to 5-star accom from $45 night.

Palm Springs 3 Nights FROM **$289** + taxes & fees $108
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 3 nights 3-star central accom. **ADD** Palm Springs Aerial Tramway from $24.

Anaheim Family Special FROM **$299*** + taxes & fees $135
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 3 nights 3-star accom near *Disneyland* Resort. **ADD** 3-day *Disneyland* Resort *Park Hopper* ticket from $157 per child.

Miami 4 Nights FROM **$769** + taxes & fees $122
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 4 nights 3-star accom located on the beach in famous Miami Beach.

Maui 6 Nights FROM **$829** + taxes & fees $109
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 6 nights 3-star beachfront accom.

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom.

Jamaica 4-Star FROM **$943** + taxes & fees $273
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom in an oceanview room.

South America Holidays

ARGENTINA
6 NIGHTS
FROM **$1099**
+ taxes & fees $349
INLCUDES roundtrip airfare into Buenos Aires and 6 nights 4-star central accom with breakfast daily. **ADD** Buenos Aires tango show, dinner and dance lessons from $98.

Chile 7 Nights FROM **$1269** + taxes & fees $240
INLCUDES roundtrip airfare into Santiago and 7 nights 4-star central accom.

Adventure Tours

INCA TRAIL 8 DAYS
LIMA TO CUZCO
FROM **$785**
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HIGHLIGHTS Lima, Cuzco, Sacred Valley, Ollantaytambo, Inca Trail, Machu Picchu & Cuzco.

Colours of Morocco 15 Days Casablanca to Marrakech FROM **$850** + local payment EUR400
HIGHLIGHTS Casablanca, Fes, Rabat, Meknes, Sahara Desert Camp, Todra Gorge, Ait Benhaddou, Imlil, Essaouira & the souqs of Marrakech.

Road to Zanzibar 14 Days Nairobi to Dar es Salaam FROM **$1153** + local payment USD820
HIGHLIGHTS Nairobi, Mto Wa Mbu, Karatu, Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, Amani Home, Marangu, Usambara Mountains, Dar es Salaam & Zanzibar.

Cruise Holidays

ANAHEIM
CRUISE & STAY
FROM **$599**
+ taxes & fees $66
INCLUDES 3-day cruise from Vancouver to Los Angeles, 2 nights 3-star accom near *Disneyland* Resort and return airfare to Vancouver. Port charges included.

Mexican Riviera Christmas FROM **$671** + taxes & fees $72
INCLUDES 7-night cruise over Christmas, onboard meals & entertainment. Sail roundtrip from Los Angeles and visit Los Cabos, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta. Port charges included.
UPGRADE to oceanview cabin from $16 per night.

Orlando Cruise & Stay FROM **$849** + taxes & fees $182
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare from Vancouver to Orlando, arrival transfer, 4 nights 3-star accom near *Walt Disney World* Resort and 4-day Bahamas cruise visiting Cococay and Nassau. Port charges included

California Wine Cruise & Stay FROM **$1199** + taxes & fees $223
INCLUDES 11-night cruise from Vancouver to San Diego visiting Nanaimo, Victoria, Seattle, Astoria, San Francisco, Monterey & Catalina Island, airfare to Las Vegas, 3 nights 3-star Las Vegas accom and return airfare to Vancouver.

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FROM **$492**
+ taxes & fees $457
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and first 2 nights 3-star central accom.

Amsterdam Fly & Rail FROM **$699** + taxes & fees $395
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